A
FULL and COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF
His R——l H—— the D— of C——d
AND
Lady G——r, the fair Adultreſs.

THE THIRD EDITION.

In TWO VOLUMES,
Price 6s. bound.

Richd Grosvenor the Noble Plaintiff
Husband of the Lady who is the subject
of these memoirs, was the 8th Baronet
& 1st Earl of that Noble family, who
was on the 8th April 1761 created b
Baron Grosvenor, and July 5th 1784
advanced to the dignity of Earl his
Lordship was born June 15th 1731
and married July 19th 1764 to
Henrietta daughter of Henry Vernon
Esqr M.P. for the Town of Bedford
(by Henrietta daughter of Thomas
3rd Earl of Strafford) the above
Earl Grosvenor had by his Lady two
Sons Richard who died an infant
and Robert, whose Father deceasing
Augt 5th 1802 succeeded to the Title

His Royal Highness the Duke
of Cumberland the Noble defendant
and subject of the other part of these
memoirs was (3rd Son & 6th Child of his
Majesty George II) born April 15th 17
died unmarried Octr 31st 1765

Vide
Debrett's Peerage

Grosvenor. 102.

A FULL and COMPLETE HISTORY OF His R——l H—— the D—— of C——d.

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AND

Lady G——r, the fair Adultreſs,

From their firſt Acquaintance to the final Determination of the Cauſe, at the Inſtance of Lord G——r, in the Court of King's B—— for *Crim Con.*

CONTAINING,

A circumſtantial Account of all their private Interviews, with all the letters which paſſed between them, and the particular Occaſions on which they were wrote.

With an Account of all the Proceedings in Doctors C——ns and Court of King's B—— in that Cauſe, with the Speeches of the Council on both ſides, and Depoſitions of the Witneſſes.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
Printed for J. BROUGH Bookſeller near
Temple-Bar, Strand, 1770.

THE

FAIR ADULTERESS.

AMONG the many evils which attend this life, there are few more generally dreaded than infamy: thoſe who are not much accuſtomed to diſturb the preſent moment with reflection, can eaſily forget every other misfortune, becauſe it is not always forced upon their regard. Againſt other evils the heart is often hardened, by true or falſe notions of dignity and reputation. Thus we ſee dangers of every kind faced with willingneſs, becauſe bravery in a good or bad cauſe is never without its encomiaſts, and admirers. The following true ſtory is an undeniable proof of what is above advanced.

The lady whoſe memoirs make the ſubject of the following ſheets, was the daughter of H—y V—n, Eſq. who, ſome years ago, was member of parliament for the town of Bedford, and brother to the honourable R—d V——n, the preſent worthy repreſentative of the ſaid town. She was formed by nature to captivate the hearts of all who ſaw her, being one of the handſomeſt women of the age. To the exquiſite perfections of a moſt amiable perſon, were joined the moſt ſhining qualities of the mind, improved by all the advantages which an education ſuitable to her birth could give them. In her earlieſt years ſhe diſcovered an irreſiſtible paſſion for intrigue, which was not a little heightened by her frequenting all public places, as ſoon as ſhe had attained the age proper for making a figure there. The coquettiſh airs ſhe aſſumed, the pride ſhe took in outſhining in dreſs the young ladies of her own age, whom ſhe viſited, were all conſtrued into an innate deſire of appearing to be what ſhe really was; nor did her parents ever ſuſpect, that thoſe arts of pleaſing, which ſhe moſt ſtudiouſly practiſed in her juvenile years, would have any other tendency than that of engaging the heart of ſome nobleman, whoſe alliance would reflect honour on her family. This of all things they moſt ardently deſired, but had the mortification to ſee all their hopes diſappointed, for her fickleneſs of temper would not ſuffer her to make choice of any one of the numberleſs admirers who daily offered incenſe at the ſhrine of her beauty.

She continued a long time in this fluctuating humour, giving and recalling her conſent to ſeveral of her adorers, till at laſt ſome private reaſons obliged her to give her hand to L—d G———r, in order to ſcreen her character from the malignant tongue of ſcandal, which had already begun to canvaſs her actions with greater liberty than her ladyſhip's *delicateſſe* could bear. Never was huſband fonder of a wife, than L—d G——r was of her. From the firſt hour of their marriage, to their final ſeparation, was one continued chain of generous and benevolent actions. He was always ſtudying new methods to pleaſe, hoping by this means to endear himſelf the more to her. To rivet her affection to him the ſtronger, her fortune, which, notwithſtanding her high rank, was very ſmall, the day ſhe became a bride, was by him preſented to her brothers and ſiſters, who, during the whole time her ladyſhip lived with him, often received undoubted proofs of the generous diſpoſition of his heart, and the moſt unexampled attention of his affectionate regard for them. But all his endeavours to be the ſole poſſeſſor of her ladyſhip's heart, were far from meeting with the deſired effect;

ſhe liſtened with fatal eagerneſs to the rude attacks made on her virtue by gallantry, until by degrees her honour, her gratitude, her regard for herſelf, and the moſt tender and endearing ties, were totally loſt, and wretchedneſs was the unhappy conſequence which fell upon her family, who flattered themſelves their honour and reputation were too ſafely depoſited on her good conduct, to apprehend the leaſt ſhock. To dread no eye, and to ſuſpect no tongue, is the great prerogative of innocence; an exemption granted only to invariable virtue. But guilt has always its horrors and ſolicitudes, and, to make it yet more ſhameful and deteſtable, it is doomed often to ſtand in awe of thoſe, to whom nothing conld give influence or weight, but their power of betraying.

It were to be wiſhed, for the ſake of virtue, the ſex, and the no leſs worthy than noble ſufferer, that the various accounts, which this unhappy affair in the great world gave riſe to, were neither ſo enormous, nor ſo palpable, as a ſtrict adherence to truth, in order to vindicate his lordſhip's character from the ſlurs of envy, compels me to repreſent them.

Four years ago, this unhappy lady had the misfortune to fix her eyes on a certain noble duke, already famous for his feats of gallantry. They carried on their intimacy with the greateſt ſecrecy, and not above one or two of her domeſtics were privy to their frequent interviews. To avoid a diſcovery of their intrigue, they ſeldom met twice at the ſame place, and generally appeared in diſguiſe, ſo that many, though they ſuſpected the motive of their aſſignations, yet were ſtill at a loſs to find out who the amorous couple were. They were ſubjected to many inconveniencies from their domeſtics, which greatly embittered the pleaſures they propoſed to themſelves in each others converſation. Nor is it to be wondered at, ſince the moſt authentic witneſſes of any one's character, are thoſe who live in the family, and ſee the maſter or miſtreſs without any reſtraint or rule of conduct, but what they voluntarily preſcribe to themſelves. If a man carries virtue with him into private apartments, and takes no advantage of unlimited power, or probable ſecrecy;

crecy; if we trace him through the round of his time, and find that his character, with thoſe allowances which mortal frailty muſt always want, is uniform and regular, we have all poſſible evidence of his ſincerity; and indeed, as hypocriſy cannot be its own reward, we may, without heſitation, determine that his heart is pure.

The higheſt panegyric therefore, that private virtue can receive, is the praiſe of ſervants. For however vanity or inſolence may look down with contempt on the ſuffrage of men undignified by titles or wealth, and unenlightened by education, it very ſeldom happens that they commend or blame without juſtice. Vice and virtue are eaſily diſtinguiſhed. Oppreſſion, according to Lord Harrington's aphoriſm, will be felt by thoſe who cannot ſee it, and perhaps it falls out very often in moral queſtions, that the philoſophers in the gown, and in the livery, differ not ſo much in their ſentiments as in their language, and they have equal power of diſcerning right, though they cannot point it to others with equal addreſs.

How often were the guilty pair expoſed to the cruel neceſſity of betraying their moſt intimate tranſactions to the prying eye of curious ſervants? The impoſſibility there was of concealing the illicit joys they experienced, ought to have been conſidered by both as a motive to a regular and irreproachable life; as no condition can be more odious and deſpicable than his who has put himſelf in the power of his ſervant; in the power of him, whom, perhaps, he has firſt corrupted, by making him ſubſervient to his vices; and whoſe fidelity he cannot enfore by any precepts of honeſty or reaſon. His R— H— and her L—p both knew, that authority thus acquired, is poſſeſſed not without inſolence; and nothing could be more grating to their pride than to be forced to confeſs, by their tameneſs and forbearance, that they had irretrievably enſlaved themſelves by their imprudent confidence. The fair one was condemned to purchaſe, by continual bribes, that ſecrecy which bribes never ſecured; and after a courſe of ſubmiſſion, promiſes and anxiety, ſhe found herſelf violated by a fit of rage, by thoſe whom gratitude for pecuniary favours, at leaſt ought to have retained in her intereſt.

But to return to the adventures of this unfortunate lady, it may not perhaps be improper to relate, in this place, the manner how ſhe and L— G— firſt became acquainted.

His L—p had, for many years, led an irregular life, and by his debaucheries had ſo far impaired his conſtitution, that the ableſt phyſicians, who were called to his aſſiſtance, pronounced with one voice that he could not live long, unleſs he adopted a different mode of living. They therefore recommended to him, as the moſt effectual means of recovery, to enter into the ſtate of matrimony. He reſolved to follow their advice; and immediately endeavoured to find an agreeable partner for the reſt of his days; and it was not long ere chance gave him an opportunity of accompliſhing his deſires with one who was confeſſedly the moſt beautiful of her ſex.

Walking one day in the ſpring in Kenſington gardens, he ſaw Miſs V— and another young lady ſitting together in an arbour: a heavy ſhower of rain falling at the ſame time, obliged his l—p to entreat the ladies to permit him to take ſhelter with them under the ſame cover. This they politely conſented to, and being ſeated, they entered into an agreeable chit-chat. The diſcourſe turned on different ſubjects; in which however love, the moſt pleaſing, had the greateſt ſhare. The ſhower at length being over, the ladies ſignified their intention of returning home; and L— G— aſked them if they had a carriage to accommodate them to town: and on their replying in the negative, his l—p very obligingly offered them part of his; which with the utmoſt complaiſance they accepted. In their way to town, Miſs V——— obſerved that it was the eaſieſt and moſt convenient carriage ſhe had ever rode in: to which his l——p politely anſwered, that it was at her diſpoſal; and that ſhe might become miſtreſs of it whenever ſhe pleaſed. His generoſity made her bluſh, and ſhe thanked him in ſo graceful a manner, that he was quite in raptures, and from that very moment determined to make her his wife. He immediately gave orders for the neceſſary preparations; and every thing being ready for the celebration of his nuptials, they were married, within a month from the firſt time of their ſeeing each other.

His l—p behaved to her with all the tenderneſs imaginable; and ſought, by the moſt endearing marks of affection, to win her l——p's love to him. Beſides her fortune, which was very inconſiderable, occaſioned by her father's too expenſive living, and which (as has been already obſerved) he preſented to her brothers and ſiſters, he beſtowed on them ſeveral diſtinguiſhing favours; and, by his intereſt, obtained for them ſeveral honourable poſts at court. It was owing to him, that her l—p's ſiſter, Miſs H———t V——— was advanced to be one of the maids of honour to her M————. But notwithſtanding theſe tokens of regard for the family which he had honoured with his alliance, her l—p could not find in her heart to make him a ſuitable return of love; ſo great was her ingratitude to her beſt benefactor, and partly from a motive of affection for another, and partly from an uncommon ſhare of vanity at being beloved by one ſo much ſuperior to his l——p in point of rank and fortune, ſhe reſolved to indulge the guilty paſſion as often as his l—p's abſence, or her own ingenuity, could furniſh her with opportunities of ſo doing.

There are not wanting thoſe who affirm it as a truth, that her l——p was actually with child, before her marriage with L—— G——, though his l——p was entirely ignorant of it, till the time of her l——p's pregnancy. This diſcovery overwhelmed the fond huſband in inexpreſſible grief; and he burned with the greateſt impatience to diſcover the raviſher of his l——y's honour. But all his moſt diligent reſearches were in vain: the amorous pair carried on their intrigue with ſo much ſecrecy, as to elude all his l——p's vigilance: and what added to his anxiety above all was, being denied the cruel ſatisfaction of ſeeing what he ſo much dreaded to be convinced of.

How happy would his l——p have been, had the ſame cuſtom of debarring women all converſation with men prevailed here as in Spain; for his l—p had ever as great a horror to being thought a cuckold, as the Spaniards themſelves, who ſo much dread being cornuted, that they cannot bear to ſee or touch any kind of horns. But unfortunately for poor L— G——r, he was obliged to bear with all the wild ſallies of his l—y's unbridled paſſion, and tamely ſuffer his unknown rival to enjoy thoſe pleaſures which love, honour, virtue and conjugal fidelity ought to have reſerved for him alone. To heighten his l———p's diſtreſs, notwithſtanding the repeated paragraphs which appeared in the papers, and notwithſtanding the ſtrong colouring a multitude of accidents received, he paſſed ſeveral months with his lady in the happieſt manner, at their ſeat in Ch——ire, where ſhe, with amazing eaſe and compoſure, read every one of the anecdotes relative to herſelf, and often expreſſed her wonder who the L— G———r could be! During this period, two beautiful children, the one about two years, the other ſeven months old, appeared to be objects of the moſt lively maternal conſideration, and the inexpreſſible joy of the agreeably deceived father.

And here I cannot help commenting on the wide difference that appears in the behaviour of theſe two noble perſons toward each other. His l———p was all fondneſs for her l———p; his every, the moſt minute action of his life, nay his very looks plainly demonſtrated how ardent his affection was for her, while her l——p, inſtead of making a ſuitable return of affection, was ever aſſiduous to embitter thoſe hours, which ought to have been paſſed in the moſt profound tranquillity, with the mortifying reflection of her infidelity to the beſt of huſbands. From the day on which their nuptials were celebrated, his l—p's whole ſoul ſeemed united to hers, and might have remained ſo for ever, had it not been for the fatal cataſtrophe which cauſed the cruel ſeparation; while her l——p, like many of our modern wives, tranſported with the pleaſure which the guilty joy afforded, indulged a flame which will ever reflect the higheſt diſgrace on her, while it adds freſh luſtre to the tender affection with which his l——p always treated her. But alas! the idea of his rival had ſtruck her imagination, and ſhe ſuffered herſelf to be hurried away with the impetuous torrent; ſhe ran eagerly on enjoyment, and embraced every opportunity of improving the thought into action, without allowing herſelf time to conſider, or let her underſtanding be employed in making a juſt computation between the duration of the ſatisfaction, and that of the repentance, the neceſſary attendant on it. Her l———p never put the leaſt check on her deſires, or chid herſelf for indulging them, even in the higheſt degree, not once conſidering, that the denying thoſe inclinations would certainly afford her an inward joy. Even innocent enjoyments ought ſometimes to be refrained from, leſt the too ſtrong and powerful impreſſion charm and captivate reaſon; and even in this caſe the inward complacency of having done well and wiſely, and the triumphs of a good conſcience, after ſubduing temptations, are inexpreſſible.

There is not certainly any thing in the world more pernicious to the ſoul, than the pleaſures of ſenſe: theſe fetter and faſten down the mind: their duration is alſo very ſhort. Thoſe of the epicure laſt no longer than while he is employed in eating or drinking. That time once paſt, all the reliſh is loſt, and the palate returns to its former habit again. So likewiſe thoſe pleaſures, which ſenſe is moſt affected with, continue no longer than the time of fruition.

ion. When that ſhort moment is once paſt, we are as if it had never been at ll. It is certain, that pleaſure is properly the object of the ſenſitive faculties, and does not extend to the rational ſoul; for creatures void of ſenſe are ſuſceptible of it.

But to return to our heroine. The time of enjoying the ſweets of a country retirement being now elapſed, L—— G——r reſolved to remove his family to London, and accordingly gave the neceſſary orders for their journey, which was performed by ſlow degrees, while he croſſed the country to Newmarket, and ſeveral other places, which he had engaged to viſit.

Her l——p now had the faireſt opportunity imaginable of gratifying her paſſion; which ſhe reſolved to improve to the utmoſt of her power. The dear object of her guilty flame had already taken all the neceſſary ſteps towards the completion of their mutual deſires; and now it only remained to conduct matters in ſo private a manner, that every avenue, which could poſſibly lead to a diſcovery of their amour, might be ſhut to the impertinent curioſity of prying domeſtics.

In order to deceive her ſervants the more effectually, on her arrival at St. Alban's, the ſcene of action, her woman, who conſtantly ſlept either in her bed-chamber, or within call in the abſence of her l—d, was, after having been ordered to warm the bed, whilſt her l———p obſerved the precaution of looking under it and into a cloſet for her ſecurity, diſcharged to attend the children; and her l———p was ſuppoſed to be retired for the night. But in about two hours ſhe ordered more coals; which being brought, and the ceremony of ſearching the apartment again repeated, ſhe was a ſecond time left to her meditations.

But all the precautions made uſe of by her l———p to conceal her guilt proved ineffectual; and ſhe and her enamorato were, to their great diſappointment, diſcovered at a time when they thought themſelves moſt ſecure. It happened in the following manner.

His l———p, as has been already obſerved, did not return immediately to London on leaving his country-ſeat, but paid ſeveral viſits to other noblemen in different parts of the country. This he did very probably out of a deſire he had to divert the melancholy, in which the reflection of the infidelity of a woman he ſo much doated on, and who was ſo utterly unworthy of his regard, had unavoidably involved him.

The morning before her l———p reached St. Alban's, the illuſtrious perſonage, who deſcended to play the deſtroyer, arrived at that town, diſguiſed in a black wig; in which, including ſome other peculiarities in his dreſs, he made a very extraordinary appearance.

Hence it was concluded, that his h——— was a perſon brought there for the benefit of the advice of an eminent quack doctor, who happened accidentally to be in the town at the ſame time, inſtead of the fatal cauſe he was proſecuting. Unfortunately for the lovers, his l———p's *maitre d'hotel*, who was no ſtranger to the amorous intercourſe that paſſed between his h—— and L—y G———r, reſolved to vindicate his l——p's honour, by giving the happy pair an opportunity of ſeeing that he was not entirely ignorant of their amour. Neither did he do this purely from a ſpirit of revenge. He hoped that the ſhame the two noble perſonages would conceive at being diſcovered by a ſervant, would have ſo far operated on the minds of each, as to have cauſed his

h—— to

h— to deſiſt from all future purſuits of a ſimilar nature; and to make ſuch an impreſſion of remorſe on the mind of her l———p, as would have produced a perfect reformation in her conduct. How far his endeavours on this occaſion were ſucceſsful, the reader may judge. A motive of obedience alſo actuated him to proceed in this manner, L— G—— having privately given him advice of her l——p's return to London alone, and ſtrictly enjoined him to keep a watchful eye over her conduct during his l——p's abſence; and, from time to time, tranſmit him a faithful account thereof.

The *maitre d'hotel*, reſolved to obey his maſter's commands in every tittle, planted proper perſons at every ſtage where her l——p was expected to ſtop; whoſe buſineſs it was minutely to obſerve all her actions; and he was ſurprized one morning about one o'clock by the arrival of a meſſenger from St. Alban's, who brought the news of his h—— and her l——p being to meet at the White Hart at St. Alban's, with a ſuccinct account of his h——'s manner of diſguiſing himſelf.

The truſty ſervant was no ſooner made acquainted with the particulars, than he immediately ſet out for St. Alban's, and alighting at the Bull in that town, ſent for one of her l——p's domeſtics, who was alſo in the plot. After ſome converſation he hired a poſt-chaiſe, and proceeded towards Dunſtable, but had not gone above three miles from St. Alban's, before he met his l—y and her attendants. He pulled up the blinds, paſſed her, and then ordered the poſt boy to turn and follow her. Her l——p put up at the White Hart; and the *maitre d'hotel* returned to the Bull. He again ſent for the ſame ſervant, from whom he received a ſuccinct account of every minute circumſtance tending to elucidate the diſcovery he was deſirous of making. He next wrote a letter, which he ſent off expreſs to London, and then went to the White Hart, accompanied by her l——p's ſervant; from whence he ſent to the Bull to acquaint them, that it was his intention to lie at the White Hart that night.

As ſoon as he imagined every body was gone to reſt, he ſtole out of his room, and with ſilent watchful ſteps pervaded all the houſe, till he reached the apartment where his l—y and C—d were; and burſting open the door, contrary to his expectation, found the happy pair ſitting up and dreſſed. This would have been a great diſappointment, and might have proved a ſource of great uneaſineſs to him from his l—y's reſentment, who, diſpleaſed at being ſeen with a man in her room at that unſeaſonable hour, would have gladly ſeized every opportunity of appearing innocent; but there was one corroborating proof of her guilt, which could by no means be invalidated, viz. that of the bed's being much tumbled.

No pen can deſcribe the confuſion of the two lovers at being thus diſcovered: her l——p fainted away, and the noble perſonage, who was employed in endeavouring to revive her, ſtood in as much need of aſſiſtance himſelf. Incoherent ſentences and broken ſighs were all he could utter for ſome moments; conſcious guilt had ſo deprived him of his ſenſes. Having, however, at length recovered the faculty of ſpeech, he expoſtulated with the *maitre d'hotel* in the warmeſt terms on the impropriety of thus breaking in on their privacy; obſerving that a due reſpect for his l—y ought to prevent his behaving in ſo rude a manner. All this while he carefully concealed (as he thought) his own dignity, and was greatly mortified at hearing himſelf called

led by his proper name, by one whom he imagined entirely deceived by his dreſs.

What cowards does guilt make? His h—— found himſelf quite unmanned at the ſervant's boldly declaring, that neither his name nor quality were unknown to him; and he, who but a minute before, would not have deigned to look at ſo mean a perſon, was, by this ſtroke of fortune, obliged to bear his keen reproaches: for the *maitre d'hotel* did not fail to tell him in a very reſpectful manner, that his exalted rank, ſo far from giving a ſanction to ſuch crimes as his, only ſerved to make them appear more atrocious. He told him, he was doing no more than his duty; and withdrew with no other ceremony than a bow of cold reſpect.

His h—— was too much confuſed, and too angry to know very well what he did. He took leave of his charmer in a manner rather abrupt, and haſtened to the Woolpack, where he hired a chaiſe, and came to London. The next morning, L— G———r's ſteward, in conſequence of the *maitre d'hotel's* letter, went down to St. Alban's, and took away her l————p's coach, and two children (the youngeſt of which was about half a year old) and ſeven ſervants out of the nine who attended her, leaving her only a maid-ſervant and a black boy. About four o'clock the ſame afternoon, her l———p went off in a poſt-chaiſe for London. A great number of people aſſembled about the door of the inn to ſee her l——p; but ſhe diſappointed their curioſity by wearing a black velvet maſk. And when ſhe was ſeated in the chaiſe, ſhe had the farther precaution to draw up the blinds; which continued ſo till ſhe arrived at her own houſe.

As ſoon as L—d G——r had made this unfortunate diſcovery, he wrote the following letter to her mother; which we have tranſcribed for the entertainment of the reader; omitting the relation of the manner of it; that being too well known to need a repetition.

"Madam,

"I know not whether I am more affected at your unworthy daughter's infidelity to me; or more grieved at being conſtrained to make you a ſharer of my ſorrows. 'Till now I rejoiced at every occaſion which conferred on me the honour of addreſſing you: but as her l——p will probably fly to you for protection, it is juſt you ſhould be acquainted, how little ſhe deſerves any countenance from you. I have given the neceſſary orders for her departure from my houſe, where ſhe ſhall never enter more. I have determined to ſettle on her ſufficient to keep her decently; which, if ſhe makes an ill uſe of, ſhall yet be leſs. Myſelf will conduct the childrens education; for I cannot think her example in the leaſt conducive to the well forming their tender minds. I wiſh I could forget that ever I knew her: but alas! that cannot be! I will endeavour to bear up againſt the torrent of grief, with which my ſoul is overwhelmed; but I foreſee I ſhall never entirely conquer it.

"I am, &c.

G——."

Two days afterwards his l——p received the following anſwer:

"My L——,

"Your l——p's general good character, and my particular knowledge of it, makes me not doubt the melancholy ſubject of your laſt letter. The diſtraction of mind which followed the reception of it, muſt plead my excuſe for not anſwering it ſooner. Did your l——p's temper, or any acts of unkindneſs, alienate her affections, there may be ſome cauſe, to which the impropriety of her conduct may be placed; but when I conſider, that conſtancy, generoſity and attention, were the qualities that regulated your matrimonial conduct, I feel for her in the double quality of mother and woman.

"Your l——p's caution in requeſting I would deny her my houſe, was unneceſſary—you might have added my ſmalleſt protection. Affection ceaſes to be a duty, when thoſe ligatures that can only cement it, are broken; and the proximity of the relationſhip but aggravates the crime. Oh! my l——, much as your repoſe has been diſturbed, mine has been much more ſo; you have nothing to charge yourſelf with. A review of your conduct not only acquits you to yourſelf, but to the whole world: and though I am in ſome reſpect exculpated, I have that about me (from being her mother) that will leave a dagger in my heart whilſt I live.

"I have but one thing to offer you on this diſagreeable ſubject; and that is, that the defection of the daughter may not involve the mother in your diſeſteem.—Grant me but this, and it will teach me to bear this ſhock with ſome firmneſs, though my peace and happineſs are invaded for ever.

"I am, my L——, &c."

Her l——p was placed in genteel lodgings in Bondſtreet ſoon after, by his l——p's order; but the children were taken from her. Her maid alſo took her leave, obſerving that, "as ſhe had nothing but her character to depend on for her proviſion in life, ſhe could by no means attach herſelf to a l—y who had ſhewed ſuch a total diſregard for all that ought to have been dear to her."

Her l——p's mother ſhortly after ſent her cloaths and money, for her immediate accommodation; and begged her to obſerve, that the mother had no concern in theſe attentions; that ſhe was too ſenſible of L— G——r's rectitude, to doubt a moment of his wife's guilt, ſince he had thought proper to make ſuch a diſpoſition of her; and ſhe only ſought to ſave her from being under obligations to the noble w—tch, who had undone her.

His l——p had no ſooner received intelligence of theſe diſtracting circumſtances, than, determined to have all poſſible ſatisfaction from the author of his misfortune, he immediately ſent to engage the moſt eminent counſel. But what is very remarkable, her l——p, conſcious of the weakneſs of her cauſe, had previouſly engaged them all in her own favour, forgetting that of the poet,

"Cauſa, patrocinio, non bona, pejor erit."

So well was ſhe aware of what muſt be the conſequence of her ill conduct.

What puniſhment would L—y G—r have thought adequate to the crime of him who ſhould have expoſed her character to the abuſive ſlander of all the world? She would undoubtedly have reſented it as an inſupportable inſolence and affront: and yet her l——p, regardleſs of the cenſure of a world but too ready to embrace all opportunities of ſcandal, was the firſt to commit this unpardonable violence on herſelf, by her imprudent conduct. What an indelible ſtain of infamy has her l——p's character ſuffered from her behaviour? Had her obedience to her huſband, her love for him and her family, been firm and conſtant; had ſhe conſidered her duty as her trueſt happineſs and only advantage, without ſuffering any conſideration, however tempting, to draw her off from it: had ſhe eſteemed herſelf as under indiſpenſable obligations, ſuch as cannot be neglected without violating the moſt ſacred ties of matrimony; had ſhe done this, I ſay, how happy had ſhe been? What halcyon days would L— G——r, who doated on her to diſtraction, have paſſed in the ſociety of her and his children: How would ſhe have been loved by thoſe who were of equal rank in life with her; how honoured and revered by her inferiors! Even her ſuperiors would have thought it no diſgrace to have made her conduct the ſtandard of their own actions. But alas! her l——p's caſe is quite the reverſe; for after ſuffering herſelf to be carried away by inordinate and extravagant enjoyments, and making pleaſure the only end and buſineſs of her life, is now doomed to a life (ſuppoſing her to have any feeling left) of uninterrupted trouble and uneaſineſs.

It may not, perhaps, be improper to mention in this place one very odd circumſtance relative to theſe illuſtrious lovers, which, while it excites mirth, will not fail to inſpire contempt in the reader for the perſons concerned. His h———, during his gallant attendance on L—y G——r laſt ſummer in the country, was more than once ſuſpected for a horſe-ſtealer, and his attendants for his accomplices. This obliged him often to travel alone, to avoid the neceſſity of making himſelf known, which he muſt have unavoidably done, had he been once apprehended on ſuſpicion. Nay, it even went ſo far, that the maſter of a hedge alehouſe, where he and his companions lodged, went to a juſtice of peace to get warrants for them: and amongſt the many reaſons the hoſt alledged for thinking them robbers, the principal one was, that they had ſhirts of very fine linen, much above their apparent quality; which appeared to have been marked; but they had taken the marks out, to prevent the perſons being known to whom they had belonged.

What mean ſchemes and ſtratagems do men often adopt in the purſuit of unlawful pleaſures? When they exceed the bounds of moderation, they wander no body knows whither, till at laſt they are drowned, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, in luxury and vanity. Nothing is more evident, than that thoſe deſires, which do not keep within the limits of reaſon, become inſatiable; not only becauſe this is the laſt fence, and there is nothing left to ſtop them afterwards; but becauſe we ſee plainly, that when they get the better of reaſon, they cauſe men to forget the end for which they were created, and terminate in the inevitable deſtruction of both body and ſoul. And thoſe things are often the ruin of health, which would have been the means of preſerving it, but for the miſapplication of them. Men are betrayed into vice by the ungovernableneſs of the affections and ſenſual appetites: then, though the mind entertains a notion, though weak and imperfect of virtue, yet the paſſions mutiny, and uſurp a power that does not in the leaſt belong to them, and over-rule the calm judgment of ſober reaſon. A ſtriking example of this may be ſeen in an ancient poet, who lived in the time of Epictetus, who, in the celebrated tragedy of of Medea, thus complaining of the impotence of her mind, when about to murder her children;

Remorſe and ſenſe of guilt draw back the ſoul,
But ſtronger paſſions do her power controul;
With rage tranſported they puſh boldly on,
And ſee the precipice they cannot ſhun.

Before I proceed any farther in the hiſtory of this noble pair, I ſhall here ſubjoin the names of the council engaged in the cauſe in which they are ſo nearly concerned. They were, Mr. a—tt—y G———l, Mr. D—n—g, Mr. W—dd—b—rn, Mr. Mad—x, Mr. Mr. ſ—j—t L——e, Mr. M—nsf—d. Mr. R——t J—n—r, the proctor, was employed by his l——p, who alſo retained Dr. C—l—t, Dr. B—v—r, and Dr. W—ne, as counſel in ſupport of the proſecution. The firſt writ is for a divorce; which, as ſoon as it is determined, it is ſaid another will be commenced for damages.

The reader will perhaps be ſurprized, that I ſhould give this particular account of the concluſion of this amour between the noble perſons, in this place, rather than at the end of the hiſtory, as four years were paſſed in the ſtricteſt intimacy before they were diſcovered in the manner recited; and conſequently many incidents, equally curious and entertaining muſt have neceſſarily happened in that long ſpace of time. My reaſon was this: When I ſat down to write, I was not poſſeſſed of many valuable anecdotes which I have ſince received; and being reſolved to inſert nothing but what was ſtrictly true, I had ſome thoughts of relinquiſhing this undertaking. Beſides, the neceſſity of publiſhing the work with all convenient ſpeed, gave me no opportunity of adopting a plan, different from that which I have followed. I depend on the reader's candour, as an excuſe for any impropriety that may appear in poſtponing theſe adventures, which ought to have been ſpoken of firſt.

Beſides laying open many curious ſcenes, in which the lovers diſplayed uncommon talents, I ſhall alſo occaſionally inſert the genuine letters that paſſed between them; with which I have been favoured by a proctor of the commons.

Among the various places which his h—— chose for the ſeat of his pleaſures, the chief was the houſe of Mr. R——da, a famous milliner in P——l-m——l. This was the moſt convenient ſpot that could poſſibly be pitched on for the purpoſe. The ſituation, the trade carried on there, which took away all grounds of ſuſpicion of what was doing: and, to ſum up all in one word, the excellent accommodation it afforded, were too preſſing incentives to be reſiſted; and her l——p was the more eaſily induced to approve of this place, as it did not ſeem in the leaſt feaſible, that perſons of the exalted rank, ſhe and the d—— held in the world, ſhould meet at the houſe of a tradeſman on ſuch an account. Beſides, here was a better opportunity of effecting an eſcape, in caſe they apprehended a ſurprize; or of vindicating her honour, had it been called in queſtion. She might, for example, have alledged as an excuſe for being found there in company with his h——, their meeting there by accident, and his detaining her in converſation; or elſe ſhe might have urged the impropriety there would have been in abruptly leaving his h—— when he deſired her to ſtay. All theſe conſiderations ſerved to heighten the eſteem ſhe had conceived for the place, which her illuſtrious lover had thought to fix on for the theatre of his gallantries.

The temper alſo of the maſter of the houſe did not contribute a little to the ſatisfaction which both parties received from their frequent aſſignations there. He was, to uſe the expreſſion of the celebrated Rowe, in his Fair Penitent, ſilent as the grave; a good harmleſs man himſelf; who, as he meant no harm, was totally blind to it in others. He had too much politeneſs to pry impertinently into the conduct of the two illuſtrious lovers, who had choſe to honour his houſe with being the ſcene of their lewdneſs.

Her l——p had alſo a chamber maid, the fitteſt perſon in the world for managing an intrigue with addreſs; aſſiduous to the higheſt degree in procuring her l———p opportunities of enjoying the pleaſure of his h———'s company; the faithful meſſenger of the letters which paſſed between them, and the watchful protectreſs of her l———y's honour. His h———'s preſents from time to time, with the engaging manner he had in making them, were charms too powerful to be reſiſted; and ſhe reſolved that no opportunity ſhould be loſt which could afford her an occaſion of ſhewing her gratitude to her liberal benefactors. This confidence repoſed in her by her miſtreſs and his h———, inſpired her with very exalted notions of her own conſequence; and ſhe now looked on herſelf as far ſuperior to all other ladies of her rank. This filled her with ſo much pride, that her l———p was often obliged to check her forwardneſs, in order to preſerve the reſpect which was due to her, as her miſtreſs. But this was always done with a mildneſs which but too plainly indicated, how much ſhe had put herſelf in her power, by truſting her with what ought to be a profound ſecret to one of her low birth and narrow mind; who, on the ſlighteſt reproof, carrying with it the leaſt degree of ſeverity, would not have ſcrupled to betray the miſconduct of her miſtreſs to his l——p.

Beſides the place already mentioned of their rendezvous in Pall-mall, they uſed often to meet at the houſe of a grave patron in Sackville-ſtreet. This prieſteſs of the temple of Venus, hackneyed in all the different ſtages of wickedneſs, could not fail of being highly uſeful to the amorous pair; and her ſober behaviour left no room to doubt, that ſhe was not as chaſte as Lucretia. To this lady's houſe they often had private aſſignations, it not being judged quite ſo ſafe always to meet at the ſame place.

In the courſe of this authentic hiſtory we ſhall have occaſion to ſpeak of ſeveral places, and of ſeveral perſons, who were, at proper times, thought inſtruments of their pleaſures; and for that reaſon I have judged it neceſſary to ſpeak of them in this place, before I enter into a minute detail of her l——p's adventures with his h———. For theſe hints, as well as many other helps, I confeſs myſelf indebted to the ingenious author of a pamphlet publiſhed ſome time ſince, under the title of "Genuine copies of all the love-letters and cards which paſſed between an ill—tri—s p—ſ—age and a noble l—y, during the courſe of a late amour," who has with ſo much accuracy compiled thoſe epiſtles, which have given ſuch general entertainment that thoſe who have already ſeen the pamphlet above cited, will not be diſpleaſed at reading them once more here; and thoſe who have not, will, I flatter myſelf, be much delighted with my having copied them.

In all places to which his h——— or her l———p reſorted, during their four years intimacy, there was either ſome houſe where they conſtantly met,

or

or elſe ſome proper perſons who uſed to take care of ſuch letters, as it was not judged ſafe to truſt in any other hands; and on this account they were always directed to them. By this means they never miſſed of falling into the right hands, as otherwiſe they might have been intercepted.

They alſo uſed to meet ſometimes at Buckingham-gate; at other times on Conſtitution-hill; where, in the cool of the evening, they uſed to enjoy each other's converſation, walking without one ſervant to attend them. The theatres, opera, Almack's, Mrs. Cornelys's, were all judged proper places for their amorous aſſignations, becauſe they could eaſily ſlip aſide from the buſy crowd, and entertain each other without the leaſt apprehenſion of being diſcovered or interrupted. But what contributed moſt of all to their happineſs, were the great efforts capt. —— always made to ſerve them. He was of an amorous conſtitution; and being under obligations to his h—— for the poſt he enjoyed in the army, he could refuſe no ſervice which his patron thought fit to put him upon: and it was owing to his fertile invention, that the happy pair enjoyed many hours of ecſtatic bliſs, which they paſſed together.

Cupid, who when he pierces lovers hearts with his arrow, ſeldom fails of ſuggeſting to them the moſt feaſible means of attaining the perfect enjoyment of what they moſt ardently deſire, pointed out to his h—— the houſe of Mrs. ———— in ——ſtreet, as a place where he could often meet his Paphian queen, properly diſguiſed in the greateſt privacy, and with the utmoſt ſafety. The lady of the houſe, whoſe numberleſs and wonderful adventures, in the many love campaigns, in which ſhe had been employed, would ſwell a large volume, was, both by nature and art, entirely qualified, for ſupporting, with dignity, the important character of a bawd. That the reader may, however, form a juſt idea of her character, it will not be amiſs to give the following deſcription of her.

She was between fifty and ſixty years of age; notwithſtanding which, her face ſtill retained ſome traces of her former beauty. She had been ſeduced in her youth by a nobleman, who, after he had ruined her, baſely deſerted her: diſcarded by her friends, ſhe took the deſperate reſolution of going upon the town, and during the firſt years of her lewd life, plied at the Roſe paſſage with no ſmall ſhare of ſucceſs. She was afterwards kept by ſeveral rich ſwains, who, like the father of the gods, when he went to viſit Danae, were obliged to make their approaches to her in a ſhower of gold. Their liberality enabled her in the verge of life, to live comfortably on the ſpoils of their folly, and under the ſanction of keeping a genteel lodging-houſe, ſhe was particularly ſerviceable to thoſe of both ſexes, who deſired to enjoy the ſweets of wedlock, without being ſubjected to the inconveniences attendant on the connubial ſtate. This pious lady never miſſed going to meeting, and would as devoutly turn up her eyes at the heavenly diſcourſes of Dr. Squintum, as any true votary of his congregation. By reflecting on his words, and the frequent application of ſome cordials, which ſerved to elevate at intervals her drooping ſpirits, ſhe quieted all the qualms of her conſcience, and ſhe was perfectly eaſy with regard to her future ſtate, being conſcious of having always acted on the grand principle, *of doing by others, as ſhe would they ſhould do by her*. She had always a tender regard for the reputation of her *children*, as ſhe called them; and whilſt, with truly *maternal* affection, ſhe was ever employed in procuring them all the pleaſure ſhe could, ſhe was equally aſſiduous to conceal from the world, whatever might affect their characters in public life.

Having thus given ſome account of the perſons principally concerned in theſe amours, I proceed to relate ſuccinctly the principal facts contained in this hiſtory. Love is the moſt noble, and at the ſame time the moſt indiſcreet of all paſſions. It is not to be wondered at, that the ancients, who were as obnoxious to ſenſuality as we are, and leſs enlightened in matters of religion, ſhould have ranked it among their divinities; we behold the joys which the beautiful god affords us, and the delights which accompany them, with the ſame light with the pagans; it ſeems that thoſe people, the moſt learned of whom had ſearched no farther into futurity, than they were able by the aſſiſtance of the dim light of conjecture and probable ſurmiſes, would have been to blame, if they had preferred any other pleaſure. Love, although painted blind, dwells in the eyes: the proudeſt hearts are ſubject to his dominion, and all owe to it their being. Even jealouſy, which often accompanies love, has ſomething in it, not eaſily defined, which makes us feel more ſenſibly the pleaſure that reſults from poſſeſſing the object beloved. The greateſt heroes have graced love's triumphs, and Mars himſelf ſubmitted to his empire. Love occaſioned the deſtruction of Troy: it made Hercules exchange his club for a diſtaff: it was this that made Mars fall into the toils that Vulcan had ſpread for him; and which cauſed the Tarquins to be driven from Rome, &c. In ſhort, love has no reſpect of perſons, and ſpares neither ſex or age. When he appears in his natural ſhape, he inſpires the youthful with the ſoft paſſion; but he kindles his flame in the hearts of the aged, when he has a mind to appear ridiculous, and mock them. Beſides, love is ingenious, and can even make that poſſible which was before impoſſible. Through his means the coward becomes brave; the miſer prodigal; the proud man becomes humble and meek; and he who before was wiſe, is made a fool by it. It is eſteemed a bad ſign, if a young man is exempt from this paſſion; for it is either a ſign of very great ſtupidity, or indicates an inſurmountable ferociouſneſs of temper. It were to be wiſhed, that thoſe who inliſt under Cupid's banners, might not have to ſay with Horace,

> Vixi puellis nuper idoneus,
> Et militavi non ſine gloriâ,
> Nunc arma, defunctumque bello,
> Barbiton hic paries habebit.

Conſcience is, to uſe the expreſſion, the regiſter of all our works: it is a witneſs of all our conduct, which cannot be bribed; and the juſt judge of of all our actions. When conſcience approves of them, it ſupports us under afflictions, it helps us to bear up under misfortunes, and gives us the moſt confirmed aſſurances of a happy eternity. But when it condemns our conduct, we feel remorſe; the fear of future puniſhment ſucceeds, together with deſpair. The decrees of conſcience are infallible; and by them we ſhall one day be buried in an abyſs of miſery.

We are more or leſs ſuſceptible of the influence of conſcience, in proportion to the notions we imbibed in our infancy of the nature of good and evil. It is therefore conſequently, only the effect of juvenile education, and a medium in which man beholds his works, as through the microſcope of ideas formed in his infancy.

We muſt not however ſuppoſe conſcience to be entirely right in all its deciſions, ſo as never to err; neither ought we always to pronounce this thing good, and that bad, conformable to its dictates. We are in the firſt place to examine, with the utmoſt nicety, on what ground its judgments are founded; for from thoſe alone, they derive all their efficacy. Now it is evident that the judgment of conſcience can never be equal in point of infallibility to that of the late Lawgiver. And thus, as the laws of religion came immediately from God, the ſovereign Creator and Director of all things, they are much ſuperior to thoſe which are of human invention. Conſcience founded on theſe principles, will ever remain firm and impregnable; but if I built on an other, it will conſtantly be the dupe of falſe ideas.

Although ſo much has been already ſaid in praiſe of the ſoft paſſion, yet unleſs it be under the direction of reaſon, it only ſerves to make thoſe completely wretched, over whom it exerciſes its dominion. Reaſon is the right method of uſing our mental faculties; and joined with good ſenſe ſhould be the grand criterion of all our actions. This wiſdom conſiſts in the knowledge of divine and human things: it teaches us to reverence the great Creator of all things; and inſtructs us in every thing that is beneficial to the general good of mankind.

Temperance, juſtice, prudence and generoſity are the effects of wiſdom; but prudence is ſuperior to them all; for by that alone reaſon maintains the dominion of our paſſions. Our paſſions may be reckoned two only, which comprehend all the others; viz. pleaſure and pain, which are ever joined with other affections. Thus, as deſire precedes the pleaſure of enjoyment, ſo joy follows it: ſo fear is the forerunner of pain, which is followed by grief, &c.

Now reaſon being as it were the compaſs, by which we are to regulate our courſe in this world; the wiſe man conſults it in all his actions; and by its power triumphs over every obſtacle that impedes his lawful purſuits. Nature has given it to man as a prerogative, which elevates him far above the other animals of the earth, that he may make uſe of it as a guide in all his affairs, without which it would be impoſſible to trace the path that leads to true happineſs, amidſt the thick clouds of darkneſs, which the follies and vices of which the world is full, caſt around him, whilſt the inſenſible man, who refuſes to obey the dictates of reaſon, drowns it in the enjoyment of thoſe filthy pleaſures to which his depraved inclinations have made him ſubſervient.

Happy thoſe who, conſcious of no evil, preſerve their conſciences pure; and can truly ſay with the poet,

——— Hic murus aheneus eſto,
Nil conſcire ſibi, nullâ palleſcere culpâ.

How oppoſite the conduct of L—y G———r has been to the law of reaſon and conſcience, not to mention its oppoſition to that of the Great Ruler of the world, will be clearly demonſtrated in the courſe of this hiſtory. I cannot however help tranſgreſſing on the reader's patience, by the repeated digreſſions I have made, which owe their ſervice to two cauſes: firſt, the reflections which the behaviour of the illuſtrious perſonages principally concerned in this hiſtory have cauſed in me, which I could not help penning down: and ſecondly, that thoſe who peruſe this book may conceive a greater horror of the behaviour of her l——p, whoſe high rank in life only ſerved to render the vice to which ſhe was addicted more odius, and fix an indelible blot of infamy on her character. I ſhall therefore conclude theſe remarks with the ſentiments of the celebrated Monſ. le Comte D'Oxenſtirn on the delights of ſenſe.

This learned writer diſcovers two things in the world; the apparent and real ſtate of what we ſee. The firſt is often hid from the eye of the vulgar; but a man of judgment knows perfectly well how to diſtinguiſh the one from the other, and to ſet no greater value on them than what they really deſerve.

Senſual pleaſures preſent themſelves to our imagination, under ſo flattering a form, that they excite it to enjoyment, in a moment our minds are inflamed, and they ſo far deprive the ſoul of all its faculties, that it does not either leave it power or leiſure to reflect on the very ſmall pleaſure which debauchery affords; which is naturally of ſo ſhort duration, that this conſideration alone ought to inſpire us with contempt and horror for it.

If we were only to conſider what paſſes within us, when we are immerged in ſenſuality, we ſhould certainly form ſuch ideas of it, as would make it highly diſguſtful to us. Conſcience, reputation, health, and our ſubſtance, are the victims which we ſacrifice to it in this life, and our future happiness in the next. It is not indeed much to be wondered at, that the body ſhould be pleaſed with it; but it is very extraordinary, that the ſoul, which is a ſpiritual being, can have the leaſt reliſh for a thing ſo infamous, and productive of ſuch dreadful conſequences; and that reaſon, which is the diſtinguiſhing characteriſtic of men from the brute creation, ſhould make them a prey to ſuch criminal deſires. The emperor Charles IV. choſe for his motto, "Optimum, aliena inſania frui." It were to be deſired, that we could once perſuade ourſelves of the truth of this maxim;

Maxima cunctarum victoria, victa voluptas.

I had almoſt forgot to mention another perſon, who was peculiarly ſerviceable to our lovers; this was no other than the landlord of the White-bear at ——, a village within two miles of L— G——r's ſeat in Devonſhire. He was entirely devoted to his h——'s intereſt, on account of his being put on the half-pay liſt of the ſea officers; he having formerly been an officer in that ſervice, through the mediation of ——. Hither therefore all the letters which paſſed between her l——p and her enamorato, were addreſſed, and delivered to the proper perſons, in a manner ſo ſecret as to prevent diſcovery of what was tranſacting againſt his l——p's honour. To this precaution it was principally owing, that an uninterrupted intercourſe of letters, accompanied by ſeveral private meetings, was carried on, during a courſe of ſix weeks, the time ſhe paſſed at L— G——r's ſeat in Devonſhire, in the months of October and November laſt.

Having now ſufficiently explainly explained the principal characters of this hiſtory, I ſhall now proceed to the moſt impartial relation of the different adventures contained therein. I ſhall omit thoſe paſſages which would appear of leſs moment, and confine myſelf entirely to the moſt ſtriking.

We have already ſeen in what manner L— G——r firſt became acquainted with her l——p; the fondneſs he always teſtified for her; and the ill returns ſhe made him for the higheſt conjugal affection he always exerciſed towards her; which appeared more in actions than in words; though theſe were not wanting; for he never ſpoke of her, but in terms of the moſt tender and refined love. How her l——p and his g—— of C——— firſt came to know each other, is not aſcertained. Some pretend it was at a place of public diverſion; but as it is not known, whether their intimacy began, in ſummer or winter, we cannot fix any time or place of it. All that can be ſaid is, that the firſt moment they beheld each other, their eyes caught the fatal flame, and they knew no peace of mind till their guilty deſires were ſatiated.

I have already mentioned Mr. R—'s, the milliner in Pall-mall, and hinted that it was at his houſe they principally met, when their aſſignations were in London. The following adventure will, I doubt not, afford great mirth to the reader.

His r—— h—— had appointed to meet L—— G——n at this houſe; and every thing was accordingly prepared for her l——p's agreeable reception; when behold! the girl, who had been diſpatched to G——'s houſe with a letter, intimating that his h—— expected her there, with all the impatience of one who loved with the utmoſt ardor, makes a great faux-pas, and dropped the letter out of her pocket into the ſtreet. She was in the greateſt confuſion at what had happened; ignorant of what ſhe ought to have done in her preſent dilemma: fearful to go home, ſhe wandered for ſeveral hours; and when ſhe returned, her bluſhes plainly indicated what ſhe, with the utmoſt difficulty, ſtrove to conceal. C——, tired with waiting ſo long in vain, for an anſwer to his billet-doux, had quitted the houſe in a very ill humour, two hours before the arrival of the ſervant girl, and retired to his own apartment. His pride was ſhocked to the higheſt degree, at the ſlight her l——p had expreſſed for him, and not in the leaſt doubting, but that ſhe had received the note he had ſent her, he did not fail to diſpatch a truſty lacquey with the following lines, replete with ſentiments of the moſt keen reſentment.

"Proud fair one,

"When perſons of my exalted rank ſtoop ſo far beneath them, as to honour their humble vaſſals with tokens of regard, the ignoble objects eſteem themſelves ſupremely happy, and are even ſtudious to make proper returns. But when that regard is changed into the moſt ardent love (I am aſhamed to acknowledge it) their felicity ſhould be inexpreſſible. Your l——p is however an exception to this rule; and it hurts me, greatly hurts me to be conſtrained to tell you, that the cruel diſappointment you put upon me yeſterday, in not fulfilling your engagement at ———, has robbed me of all the comfort my heart before enjoyed. I own my weakneſs: I love: that has extorted from me this letter, which no other conſideration could ever have done.

"————."

The reader will eaſily judge how much her l———p was troubled at the receipt of the foregoing epiſtle. Happily L—— G—— was engaged, ſo that ſhe had full leiſure to write a proper anſwer to his h——'s letter. She went into her dreſſing room, where ſhe began to write ſeveral times, and as often burned what ſhe had wrote. At length the faithful Harriot, her confidante in this affair, brought her an ac-

count of all that had paſſed at Mr.
——'s, not forgetting the circumſtance of the girl's having loſt the letter. This relation, in ſome meaſure accounted for the contents of his h——'s epiſtle; and ſhe immediately diſpatched her diligent emiſſary with the ſubſequent anſwer.

"My Dear ——,

"I could not have imagined, that the miſtake of the milliner's girl would have occaſioned ſuch a *fracas* between me and your r—— h——. I am inſenſible to every other wiſh, than that of gratifying the deſires of a man whom I adore. To-morrow at four o'clock I ſhall be at ——'s in Sackville-ſtreet; where I ſhall wait with the utmoſt impatience the honour of ſeeing you. Harriot will be as faithful as ſhe is aſſiduous. Perhaps I am imprudent in ſigning myſelf, what however I cannot avoid,

"Yours everlaſtingly,

"G——."

The next day her l——p went, according to her appointment, to ——'s in Sackville-ſtreet. The joy both expreſſed at ſeeing each other there can better be conceived than expreſſed. Her l——p, purſuant to her previous intention, of paſſing the night together with

G——,

[illegible], her lord being to be abſent from home for that time, had caſt a veil over her night-dreſs, which ſhe threw off in the houſe.

As the lovers were entertaining each other in the moſt agreeable manner, a loud knock was heard at the chamber door, which greatly alarmed them. They were however preſently relieved from their ſurprize, when, on the door being opened, the faithful Harriot, the ever vigilant guardian of her lady's honour, entered the room. "Madam, ſays ſhe, you have entruſted me with all your ſecrets; therefore I am bound in duty to diſcover every thing I know to be acting contrary to your intereſt, or at leaſt to your pleaſure." Her ladyſhip hearing theſe words, ſtarted back, ſaying, "What's the matter, Harriot? Is my mother taken ill? Are the children not well?" "No, ſays the maid, ſomething worſe than all that has fell out. My lord, your huſband, is returned home, and has been already told, that you went out in the habit you now wear, in a chair, to Sackville-ſtreet, this afternoon. What muſt be done to diſguiſe the truth? I tremble for the event.

Harriot having ſpoke thus, a conſultation was held, how to avoid diſcovery. It was at laſt agreed on, that the lovers ſhould immediately ſeparate. C——l was greatly mortified at this ſtroke of adverſe fortune; but as there appeared no remedy but patience, he quietly ſubmitted to it. He accordingly called a chair, and went home. Her l——p, in order to make the ſervants appear to be wrong in their allegations, borrowed a rich dreſs at the milliners, and went and paid ſeveral viſits that evening; nor did ſhe return home till it was late. This proceeding convinced l—— G——r of the fidelity of her l——p, and he remained entirely ſatisfied.

I have great reaſon to apprehend, that many of my female readers will be highly offended at the candour with which I relate theſe amorous adventures, as tending only to expoſe the weakneſs of the fair ſex. I ſhall therefore, for their ſatisfaction, beg leave to depart a little from the ſubject, and relate the ſubſtance of a converſation at which I was preſent, where a diſpute aroſe, which ſex is the moſt guilty of incontinency. Some ſaid the men were the greateſt tranſgreſſors, whilſt others affirmed that the women were moſt in fault. Among the latter, one declared, that our laws were too favourable to women, and ſuffered them to go on with their diſſolute practices to ſuch a degree, that, being reſtrained by no ſort of fear, he ſaw nothing that we ought reaſonably to hope from thoſe who appeared the moſt modeſt among them. In ancient times, ſaid he, they were under ſome reſtraint; for, beſides divorces, which were always allowed the men, if they found their wives guilty of ſmall faults, they had a right to ſee them puniſhed: and, if we except ſome few who are touched with a ſenſe of honour, how are we to be freed from the reſt of their failings, which even the ancients have not been able to ſuppreſs? I know not a crime, continued he, that a woman will not commit upon the leaſt temptation: beſides that, in pride, profuſeneſs of expences, and other extravagancies in our days, they ſurpaſs even the moſt diſſolute of men.

This gentleman pretended not to mention the diſturbances women give their huſbands in the night-time, their brawls and uneaſineſſes, or perhaps ſomething that is ſtill more afflictive to a man's ſpirits; but out of compaſſion to them, and on account of their being the weaker veſſel, he would proceed no farther in deciphering their vices.

At this ſpeech the whole company were ſtruck ſilent, and ſeemed to be confirmed in the belief of thoſe extravagant rants. Here I was forced to ſummon all my reaſon to my aid, and plead, like a ſkilful lawyer at the upper end of the board, in defence of the fair ſex. It is ſeldom, ſaid I, that we ſee women guilty of murders, cruelties, and drunkenneſs, or tinctured with the hundredth part of the vices men are prone to; but on the contrary, it is evident, they are for the moſt part chaſte, virtuous, modeſt, humble, free and generous. Their hearts are tender, ſoft, and eaſy; and if there are any who are wanton, and give themſelves up to laſcivious pleaſures, I am certain, that they are commonly led away, and enſnared into it by the ſly inſinuations and crafty allurements of men; without which, I am perſuaded, not one in a thouſand would be charged with ſuch groſs miſcarriages. And, to be ingenuous, where there is one woman lewd, there are ten men moſt extravagantly vicious. I only deſire to aſk what the men would be, if they were daily tempted, and offered ſuch golden baits by the women, as the latter are by them, conſidering that they are corrupt of their own nature, without any inſtigation? Who ought to be held moſt excuſable, ſhe, who, at the enticement of another, loſes her innocency, or he that uſes his utmoſt efforts to draw her into the ſnare? Theſe arguments are ſo plain, that every hour's experience affords a convincing proof, and therefore I am not a little ſurprized at the confidence of our ſex, in cenſuring the fair for crimes, which are not ſo frequent among them, as we ſee among ourſelves. If the women were ſubject to fondneſs and intemperance, which I peremptorily deny, ought not they to think full as heinous or deteſtable, or rather more ſo, the infinite number of vices, that may eaſily be eſpied in the hearts of men, the leaſt of which deſerves as much to be blamed. I cannot imagine whence ſuch an error ſhould firſt proceed, unleſs out of a deſire of condemning others, to juſtify themſelves, which will not avail with moſt of them. For I know they are almoſt all ſo generally addicted to the ſame ill habits, beſides others, that there is not a perſon, though ever ſo mean, among them, who does not deſire to gratify his paſſion for pleaſure with many beautiful women, whom he ſees and converſes with; ſo that if *their* virtues did not ſtop the torrent of vice, there would be no more continence among mankind, than among the moſt ſalacious birds, the pigeons and ſparrows. Women are ſolicited without intermiſſion; and with much leſs trouble, they might enjoy their fill of delight, yet we ſee that they very rarely fall into that fault, which, though ſo much charged on them, is become almoſt a virtue in men. Is it then leſs diſhonourable in one ſex than in the other? It is indeed very amazing that women ſhould be ſo ſeverely cenſured for what the men pride themſelves in; conſidering alſo, that the ſin is committed on the female ſide, with ſome degree of excuſe, while the other have really none, to vindicate their conduct. Now let the men, for the future, if they can, produce plainer arguments on their ſide, than I have laid down in favour of the women.

Beſides, added I, we ought to conſider maturely the circumſtances, before we charge theſe facts too home on the fair ſex, which make them appear guilty. For (ſaid I) ſome men complain highly of the inconſtancy of their wives, when there have been but light grounds for ſuſpicion, which I believe is often the caſe." This diſcourſe put the more choleric of the company into a violent paſſion; and ſome who ſuſpected their wives fidelity even went ſo far as to tell me, that, "for ought he knew, I might be one of his wife's enamorato's; for, ſays he, I actually diſcovered this morning, that, during my late abſence from home, ſhe has received viſits from ſeveral men, and, therefore, for you to vindicate ſuch a harlot is not to be borne." His heat was ſtill more kindled, by my ſwearing that I had heard the whole truth of the ſtory, and that I believed the whole thereof to be true; "but that, ſaid I, cannot at all juſtify your cenſure; your wife, no doubt, had no ill intention; ſhe did nothing but what reaſon and juſtice could very well allow of. What! becauſe a woman being deceived by the reſemblance which may be between her huſband and another man, ſhould grant to that ſtranger all the privileges of marriage, as is the caſe of your wife, is ſhe therefore a courtezan? I ſay, her chaſtity ought not to ſuffer by it. Your ſpouſe has done you no real injury, and you would be the moſt unjuſt of all men, if you ſhould accuſe her of having violated her conjugal faith, ſuppoſing, that ſhe did not in the leaſt deſire to deceive herſelf. For, if the impatience of recovering a huſband, made her overlook the ſuſpicions ſhe might have at the ſight of a man like you, who took that title on him; or, if ſhe had believed that he was her true huſband, becauſe ſhe wiſhed it might be ſo, for the reaſons I have intimated, removing from her mind every thing that might induce her to doubt of it, I ſhould then very much abate of the good opinion I had of her merit, and I could not blame you for calling her chaſtity in queſtion, and looking upon her virtue as wavering,

ing. The natural likeneſs, which is to be found between two men, is never ſo perfect, but they differ in ſomething; from whence it may be concluded, that a woman who is deceived by it acts unwarily. But in this very point ſhe wants not an excuſe; for, are there any of their huſbands, who, after a long abſence, unleſs they prove firſt that they are their real huſbands, when they ſee them enter their apartments, do not go and meet them, and are not ready to ſhew them every mark of civil complaiſance without making any enquiry? If not, why ſhould we blame an unfortunate woman, who has been deceived by an impoſtor, who was in all reſpects as like her huſband as one may appear to be in a dark room? It is plain, that if ſhe is to blame, all women who be-have themſelves in that manner towards their huſbands are alſo criminal.

Theſe arguments brought the man to reaſon; his rage and jealouſy ſubſided. He told me, what I laid down had entirely convinced him of his error, and he would go home immediately and embrace his wife with as much cordial affection as ever he had done in his life.

What I have already ſaid, will, I hope, ſufficiently apologize for any thing that may appear in this work derogatory to the reputation of the ladies, for I am thoroughly convinced, that, for one who deviates from the ſtrict paths of virtue, there are, I may ſay, five hundred who never go aſtray.

To reſume the thread of the ſtory: Her ladyſhip, who was ever ſtudious of improving every opportunity of gratifying her amorous inclinations, had appointed his h—— to meet her at the opera; to this end ſhe repaired at the proper time to the place of diverſion; but how great was her diſappointment, when he did not appear according to his aſſignation. She looked on this neglect as a ſlight put on her love, and returned home before the repreſentation was half over, in the greateſt agonies of mind imaginable.

She was ſcarce arrived at her own houſe, when a meſſenger delivered a letter from C—— into her hands, conceived in the humbleſt terms, pleading an excuſe for not meeting her at the above-mentioned place, as had been concerted between them, of which the following is an authentic copy:

"Divine Creature,

"It is impoſſible you can have any idea of the anguiſh of mind I labour under, in having thus cruelly diſappointed you, otherwiſe than by the torment you yourſelf have underwent on that account. The crime I have herein committed, admits of no palliation. Nothing can ever reſtore my loſt peace of mind, than your kindly adminiſtering the balſam of forgiveneſs to my wounded ſoul. Say then, angelic woman, that you pardon me; ratify the abſolution with a line of comfort from your fair hands, and I ſhall be ſupremely bleſſed. It is impoſſible for you to imagine how much I am,

" Yours eternally,

" C——."

C——'s letter quite appeaſed her ladyſhip's mind, and ſhe once more reſumed her former gaiety. Her next adventure was, however, crowned with as little ſucceſs as any former one had been, and ſhe had the mortification to ſee that her ſchemes, though ever ſo well concerted, proved often abortive. Of this we ſhall ſhortly give a pregnant proof:

I muſt however firſt beg leave to mention the ſentiments of Mr. Montaigne, concerning the chaſtity we expect women to be endowed with.

This learned author obſerves, that there are many ways by which a woman's chaſtity may be invaded, even where there appears the leaſt ground for ſuſpicion; and there is, perhaps, more danger of thoſe who are leaſt ſuſpected, than of the others; for, as the poet, Martial, obſerves,

"Offendor mæchâ ſimpliciore minus."

A woman may eaſily be unchaſte, without incurring the diſgrace of a common proſtitute, as in the caſe of our heroine. Youth and beauty are but too often ſnares which they carry continually with them, and into which they are often trepanned, and that more ſucceſsfully than by any other means. Women who poſſeſs theſe qualities are naturally very vain, and their vanity often prompts them to liſten with rapture to the ſoft enchanting notes of perſuaſion, and it at length becomes no very difficult taſk to win their affections: for if men are captivated by their beauty, they are no leſs charmed with the adoration they receive on that account, and the ſureſt way to win the affections of a woman, is to idolize her, on account of her perfections of mind or body. This makes them apprehend they have been guilty of injuſtice to themſelves, in not diſcovering before thoſe accompliſhments, which were ſo obvious to every one elſe, and they are continually reproaching themſelves for their blindneſs, which hitherto had caſt a veil over their beauty, and hid it from their partial eyes, only to diſcover it to others. Pleaſed however at the glorious conqueſt, they are happy in the poſſeſſion of it, and their vanity is now in its full luſtre. But to proceed;

Her ladyſhip received a billet from his h——, deſiring her attendance at Buckingham-gate, where they had often met, and paſſed many delightful hours in ſoft embraces. But a terrible miſtake happened, which had like to have made ſuch a breach between them as to admit of no poſſibility of a reconciliation. His h——, who never wrote to the dear object of his love, but was ſure to commit ſome miſtake, as to place or time of meeting, appointed Buckingham-gate, inſtead of Conſtitution-hill. He flew with wings of love to the ſpot, and was greatly diſappointed when his charmer did not appear. She was no no leſs grieved at not finding him at the place appointed, and words cannot deſcribe the rage that tormented her ſoul on the occaſion. Her grief was inexpreſſible, and only to be conceived by thoſe who have been in the like circumſtances, and ſhe carried it ſo far, as to endanger her health. The ſame evening, however, ſhe received a letter from him, which in ſome degree aſſuaged the anguiſh of her ſoul, the contents of which are as follow:

"My Charming Angel!

"Alas, Madam! what ſhall I ſay! I am not leſs enraptured with your perſon, than I hope to be charmed with your forgiveneſs. Inſtead of Buckingham-Gate, I ſhould have written Conſtitution-Hill. Will you, can you pardon me? I have nothing to offer in mitigation of my crime, but that, tranſported with the enchanting idea of claſping you in my arms, I could not write like a man in his ſenſes. I will be at Drury-Lane this evening, and, if you are not too much irritated, ſhall ſee you in the uſual part of the houſe. Forgive me if poſſible.

C——."

Her ladyſhip, on the receipt of this epiſtle, loſt all patience, and was unable to contain her anger; ſhe, however, reſolved that his h—— ſhould have no reaſon to reproach her of want of affection, and prepared to go to the play. But alas! ſhe, who was ever doomed to be diſappointed, had the mortification to ſee he did not come thither. She returned home, and in the height of her paſſion, diſpatched her faithful Harriot with the following lines:

"MY chagrin, Sir, at not finding you at the place mentioned in your letter, can be equalled by nothing but that which I experienced, when I found you did not come to the play either. Indeed, Sir, I am not thus to be trifled with; my ſpirit revolts at the idea; and though I would have preferred a cottage with you, to a palace with any other perſon, yet your r—— h—l—may be aſſured that I ſhall not haſtily ſubject myſelf to ſimilar inſults to thoſe lately experienced by

G———."

His h—— no ſooner received the above epiſtle, than he diſpatched his faithful valet with the following anſwer:

"Moſt incomparable woman!

"Believe me when I ſay, that the firſt miſtake *ought* to be forgiven, and that the ſecond *muſt* be ſo. —— Love will plead my excuſe in the firſt inſtance, for it took away my faculties—and DUTY is my ſecond plea. At the inſtant I was preparing for the theatre, I received orders which I *could not* diſobey. My truſty —— was abſent, ſo that I had not even an opportunity of acquainting you with the circumſtance. To-night at nine o'clock, whatever be the conſequence, you ſhall ſee me at Mrs. ——'s in —— ſtreet; and I hope you will then ratify the pardon of

Your ladyſhip's moſt profound,
Moſt devoted admirer,
C——."

To this letter was ſubjoined the following card:

" I own

"I own I am properly treated. Your ladyſhip had a right to be revenged. I acknowledge the juſtice of the chaſtiſement."

Her ladyſhip was in an ecſtacy at the receipt of this letter. It ſoothed her pride, and confirmed the victory ſhe had gained over his r—— h——'s heart. The exquiſite pleaſure ſhe experienced at even the very idea of ſeeing a f——n p——e at her feet, was too great, not to have moved a woman leſs ſuſceptible of pride than lady G—r, much leſs her, who was ſo jealous of the aſcendency, which her vanity ſuggeſted to her, her beauty ought to have over men's hearts. She could not reſt till ſhe had ſealed his h——'s pardon, with ſome diſtinguiſhing mark of her affection; and, therefore, calling her confidant, Harriot, into her dreſſing-room, where, having previouſly locked the door, ſhe ſat down, and wrote the following lines, which the aſſiduous domeſtic carefully delivered into his r—h—'s own hands.

—"My Dear,

"If you pleaſe, we will agree on a ſuſpenſion of hoſtilities. I am revenged; I am ſatisfied. The waiting woman has well performed her part. Your r—h— will for the future be more cautious, and perhaps your future aſſignations may not be followed by any neglect on the part of,

Your very ſincere,

G—."

The following card accompanied the above letter.

" An accident, which cannot at preſent be explained, prevents my having the honour of ſeeing your r—— h—— this afternoon. The bearer will acquaint you with particulars."

Before I relate the accident hinted at in the above card, it will not be amiſs to explain the nature of that love which women conceive towards men: as this will ſerve as a palliative for her ladyſhip's conduct, who, though highly culpable, is nevertheleſs, from that frailty ſo neceſſarily connected with the fair ſex, undoubtedly entitled to ſome excuſe for any miſbehaviour in the conjugal ſtate.

The ordinary talent of women to love, towards their huſbands, is ſuch as is barely ſufficient to maintain the conference and communication required to the ſupport of the conjugal tye; nor do they appear to be endowed with conſtancy of mind, to confine themſelves to one man alone. And doubtleſs, if without the knot of wedlock, there could be ſuch a free and voluntary familiarity contracted, where not only the ſouls might have this entire fruition, but the bodies alſo might ſhare in the alliance, and a man be entirely engaged to one, the love would certainly be more full and perfect; but we have no example of any woman's arriving at ſuch perfection. The firſt fury inſpired by the ſon of Venus into the heart of a young woman, on the ſight of the flower, and prime of a ſpringing blooming youth, to whom ſhe allows all the freedoms and paſſionate attempts, that an immoderate ardour can produce, was ſimply founded on external beauty, the falſe image of corporal generation; upon the ſoul it could not ground this love, the ſight of which, as yet lay concealed. The love, however, which men bear to women, though it be an act of their own choice, the fire of it muſt be confeſſed to be more active, more eager, and more ſharp. It is however equally fickle, moving, and inconſtant; a fever ſubject to intermiſſion and paroxyſms, that has ſeized but one, and that the moſt ignoble part of our being. Arioſto, the celebrated Italian poet, in his 10th canto, ſays very opportunely on this ſubject, that,

Com' ſegue la lepre il cacciatore
Al freddo, al caldo, alla montagna, al litto:
Ne piu l'eſtima poi, che pre ſa vede,
E ſol dictio a chi fugge affretta il piede.

Love is therefore, according to the above cited author, no other than a frantic deſire after that which continually flies from us, and in the fruitleſs purſuit of which we are conſtantly buſied. But to proceed:

The accident hinted at in the above card, was no other than Lord G——r being returned home unexpectedly, and being ſomewhat out of order, he begged her ladyſhip would ſtay and bear him company. She complied with her lord's requeſt, though ſore againſt her will, and ſpent the evening with him in a manner, which, while it afforded him infinite pleaſure, was inexpreſſibly diſagreeable to her.

Reſolved however to repay herſelf for the loſs of thoſe pleaſant moments ſhe loſt, deprived of ſeeing his r—— h——, ſhe flew the next day to Mrs. ——'s in Sackville-Street, whither her lover, drawn as it were by ſympathy, preſently after arrived. When they were alone, ſhe broke out in the following exclamation. — "I don't know what ails me; when I ſee your r—— h——, my heart burns, and beats as violently for joy, as if it would break from its confinement. When I am abſent from you, 'tis the heavieſt, deadeſt maſs in nature. When I play with you, and by chance touch your ſoft hand, it flutters in my breaſt, as a bird, who, weary of his cage, ſeeks to make his eſcape. When you are abſent, my ſenſes all forſake me. What ſhall I do? But when you are near, and ſpeak kindly to me, my blood ſeems all in a pleaſing dance. When you kiſs me, I am not able to expreſs what I feel in the bliſsful moment; methinks there is no end of thinking. Were I to ſee you engaged with any other lady, I ſhould burſt with madneſs; I could fly at her, and tear out her eyes! I dare not open my mind to my phyſician, or elſe I would aſk his opinion of my diſorder. Whenever I ſleep, I dream of our being perpetually together. In ſhort, I fancy myſelf the nymph, mentioned in Ovid, who was changed into Echo, and you the ſwain. Were I not certain your h—— is not kind to any other, and that you viſit me as often as you can, I could not ſupport the anguiſh I feel, whenever neceſſity obliges me to be abſent from you."

To this harangue, dictated by the god of love, C—— replied, "Do not afflict yourſelf, faireſt G——: I will never be inconſtant, neither will I let ſlip any opportunity of giving you the moſt ſtriking proofs of my attachment to your perſon. Your honour will ever be ſafe under my protection, and I ſhall ever be extremely nice in doing any thing that might, by appearance only, reflect on our reputation,

tion, the only thing that could ſeparate us for ever. O! that you were as firmly mine as you are Lord G———'s. What happineſs for me, could I raiſe you to a throne! could I endow you with all the riches of the Eaſt! The ſacrifice I make you, of loving none but your ladyſhip, is nothing, conſidering how entirely you poſſeſs my heart, which ſhall ever be preſerved for you with the moſt ſacred fidelity."

This proteſtation of C———'s love, uttered with all the tranſport of a fond enamorato, was doubtleſs highly pleaſing to to one of lady G———'s ſtamp, and they paſſed the night together in the moſt perfect enjoyment till day-break, when they parted. Her ladyſhip was let in unknown to any of the domeſtics, except her faithful Harriot, who always ſat up for her on theſe occaſions.

Her ladyſhip having recovered her ſtrength, after the fatigue of the preceding night, ſent his r—— h—— the following billet:

"If your h—— pleaſes to be at ——'s, near Vaux-hall, you will there meet a perſon, who is commiſſioned to conduct you to a place of diverſion highly pleaſing to you. The time appointed is to-morrow at ſix. Adieu. I hope you do not want courage to try the force of this aſſignation. You are made for adventures. Adieu. Loſe not the valuable time, which ten thouſand worlds cannot recover."

This note was conveyed to the p——e by Harriot, who brought back the following anſwer:

"Since the character and ſtyle is ſtamped by your fair hand, there can be no diſpute of obedience. My whole life is entirely yours. I am as willing to improve time as you can be. Since it is therefore ſo fleeting, let us, my lovely adventurer, loſe none of its precious moments. To antedate your appointment, I will be there before you. Adieu, moſt charming of your ſex!"

Her ladyſhip prepared at the appointed hour for her aſſignation; and the better to diſguiſe herſelf, put on the habit of an officer; under the protection of which dreſs, and the favour of a maſk nicely adapted to her face, ſhe paſſed unnoticed by the ſervants, till ſhe got into the carriage which waited for her at the door, and in which ſhe drove to Vauxhall.

Overjoyed at having thus ſucceeded, ſhe expreſſed the pleaſure ſhe received in the following ſoliloquy: "Who would marry, to paſs a whole life in inſipidity? Curſed Hymen! abhorred conſtraint! how I pity thoſe of rank of my own ſex, who wear away an age of blooming youth, without a taſte of joy! We are married, as our parents direct, without one grain of inclination! our ſweets are ſacrificed, without even obliging the rigid maſter to whom they are offered! How much more preferable is it to live ſingle, than to endure a reluctant embrace? There is no mean in that caſe, 'tis all ecſtaſy! the end of living! the extract of delight! or cold inſipid taſteleſs duty! The heavieſt part of the yoke, the burden of our nights, and ſum of our diſlike! I'll no more on't, my lord's become intolerable."—— Having ſaid theſe words, the coach ſtopped at the place of its deſtination, and lady G———r was agreeably ſurprized at ſeeing C———, who impatiently waited her arrival, ſtanding ready to aſſiſt her in alighting from her carriage.

She flew to his arms with all the tranſports of joy, and ſwooned away, ſo great was the ecſtaſy ſhe was in:

As

As ſoon as ſhe recovered, ſhe exclaimed, "O my dear ——! how much do I thank you for this punctuality!" His r—— h—— anſwered with a becoming ſmile, and the lovers retired to take ſome refreſhment. They afterwards amuſed themſelves in the garden, till an elegant ſupper was ſerved up in a ſaloon prepared for that purpoſe. His h—— aſſumed all the good humour he could during the repaſt, but it was viſible that his impatience left him but little leiſure to think of any thing but what was to ſucceed when they were left alone. He looked on every moment as an hour, and lady G——, who read his longing in his eyes, equally willing to gratify his deſires, ordered the things to be removed, and retired with him into the bed-chamber, where we ſhall leave them together, and return to his lordſhip's houſe, which was become one complicated ſcene of confuſion, on account of her ladyſhip's abſence.

Lord G——— unfortunately came home that evening much ſooner than uſual, and not finding his lady in the houſe, enquired of all the ſervants, where ſhe was gone. They, who had been deceived by her diſguiſe, could not give any account of her. Their ignorance only ſerved to heighten his anger, ſuſpecting they were privy to the occaſion of her ladyſhip's abſence. In the height of the confuſion, home came lady G——r. The injured huſband no ſooner ſaw her, than, in the heat of his paſſion, he threw himſelf on the floor, in ſuch agonies, that all about him imagined he would expire under the preſſure. Never was any man ſo agitated by grief as lord G— appeared to be. He loudly proclaimed his misfortune, appealed to the lovely ſinner for all the favours he had beſtowed on her and her family. He ſaid, that coming home, and ſhe being abſent, whom he thought to find, jealouſy (to which he had never before been inclined) entered his breaſt, with that inexplicable rage and fury, which ſcarce could be diſtinguiſhed from madneſs. It afterwards increaſed, if that might be ſaid to increaſe, which had already gained the utmoſt height. It left him not the leaſt uſe or ray of reaſon, like a thirſty flaſh of lightning, that in a moment drinks the ſtream, and leaves the channel dry; ſo was lord G———'s blood inflamed; ſo it boiled, ſo it raged, contrary to his wonted ſerenity of temper, that had never been ſeen to exert itſelf above the common; even anger, and the greateſt provocation, had ſcarce ever power before to ruffle the ſerenity of his temper! But the love he bore to the dear falſe one, gave birth to a new nature in him: it carried him to ſuch an extremity, as if violent jealouſy were innate, and not accidentally conceived in him. In this agony, his artful wife threw herſelf at his feet, and in a plaintive tone ſought forgiveneſs, thinking by this behaviour to aſſuage his wrath. Now the fond huſband underwent the ſevereſt conflict; rage, love, jealouſy, all the paſſions by turns preſided in his ſoul. Seeing her weep, he kiſſed the ſtarting tear from her eyes, and loſt himſelf in gazing on her beauty! Then a moment after, as if by cruel remembrance awakened, he caſt her from him; called her baſe, —abominable --- all that was deſpicable --- but ſtill he thought her charming!—— Women beloved can do all things! Very few go the lengths they may, becauſe they have not heat and courage enough to prove how much they are beloved! 'Tis to their modeſty in aſking, we owe the happineſs of ſo often denying what is not fit to be granted! Did they but dare demand, as much as we dare beſtow, what beggars ſhould we be! how great in obedience! how humble our ſlavery! how abſolute the dominion of the beloved object! But, when ſatiated, nothing ſo ſettled, ſo compoſed, as immoveable as metal after the flux, which degenerates into a fixed coldneſs; we may add, in human bodies, averſion: let it therefore be confeſſed, that there is nothing worthy our nobleſt paſſions! 'tis only for ourſelves we love another! The impulſe being involuntary, well may the conſequences be ſuch! But when once the infatuation is over, what lifeleſs wretches are we! how ſeldom prevailed on to do a generous act! nay, how baſe! we loath the very perſon once ſo wonderfully bewitching; ſhun, as our evil genius, what before influenced our deſtiny; and never willingly regard, what we would wiſh eternally to avoid.

Lady G—— pretended then to interpoſe her innocence. She anſwered with her tears, and in a tender manner reproached her injured lord, for the baſe ſuſpicions he had conceived of her virtue. In a word, ſhe ſaid and did every thing, which ſhe thought might induce him to turn his anger on himſelf; and was ſo happy in deceiving the fond, credulous partner of her bed, that he very ſincerely aſked her pardon, for the ſhock her delicacy had received.

Lady G—— had, as has been already obſerved, ſomething ſo exceſſive complaiſant, as well as agreeable in her converſation, that the D. of C—— found every hour tedious, which was not ſpent in her company. Being eſteemed virtuous, he was looked on as a very improper object for jealouſy; he often viſited lady G——— at her houſe, with unſuſpected freedom. The reader has already been told, that lord G———r was none of the moſt *rigid*, he was a huſband of a *newer faſhion*, and had *better manners*.

An odd accident happened at this time, which ſerved to confirm lord G——r in the credulous notion of his lady's integrity, though it was at firſt attended with a good deal of uneaſineſs to the whole family. His lordſhip was gone out to viſit ſome friends at Twickenham, where he propoſed ſtaying three or four days. In the mean time her ladyſhip was gone to viſit her mother; and the faithful Harriot, willing to follow the example of her miſtreſs, had invited the butler of another family to paſs the night with her; and, to make things more agreeable to him, choſe to ſleep in her lady's bed. The lovers had not been above two hours in bed, and were faſt aſleep, claſped in each others arms, when lord G——r unexpectedly returned. They had taken the precaution to get one of the ſervants to ſtand centinel in a room on the ſtairs; but he, without any apprehenſion of danger, had abandoned himſelf to ſleep, and was inſenſible of every thing but his dreams. My Lord, as was his cuſtom, undreſt himſelf below ſtairs, ſent his valet de chambre to bed, and only ſtay'd to look over a pamplet, which he found in his pocket: when he had done, he took a light, and aſcended the ſtairs as ſoftly as he could, for fear of awaking her ladyſhip, whom he imagined to be in bed and aſleep. He went directly to the bed, and found the curtains were cloſe; my lord then went to the ſide he uſually lay on, where he diſcovered the lovers. Without allowing himſelf time to examine into particulars, but concluding immediately, from what he ſaw, that they could be no other than his lady and ——, he ſet the light down, and calling to his ſuppoſed wife, made uſe of the tender epithet of Dear Lady G——r. His voice awaked the lovers; for it muſt here be premiſed, that, to heighten the enjoyment, they had choſe to call themſelves by thoſe titles, which their maſter and miſtreſs bore: ſo that it is no wonder, if, prepoſſeſſed with the reality of what was only imaginary, they were ſo eaſily awakened at the ſound. One's own name pronounced, awakes one ſooner than a clap of thunder. She heard, ſhe knew the voice, and immediately ſhrieked ſo loud, that ſhe awaked her lover. But what is very remarkable, ſhe catched faſt hold of her maſter, who immediately threw back the curtain, and perceived the butler getting out of bed, and haſtening out of the chamber as faſt as ever he could.

Harriot ſtill kept her hold, ready to expire with fear and diſtraction of what might be the conſequence. She pleaded the frailty of her ſex, the love ſhe bore to her enamorato; ſhe wept, caſt herſelf at his feet, begged him to forgive her, and have pity on the moſt unfortunate of her ſex. She ſtill continued her hold, and would not on any terms be brought to quit it. She would have made an excellent comedian; for in any point where ſhe had occaſion to feign, ſhe firſt imagined herſelf in earneſt, and then immediately became ſo, which indeed is but the conſequence of ſuch an extraordinary faith. She conjured her maſter, by all that was tender, not to give her up to infamy, by diſcloſing her crime. Muſt ſhe for one fault, and that the firſt, and which ſhe had always held in the higheſt deteſtation, be expoſed, loſt, undone, for ever ruined? Muſt ſhe wander like an outcaſt about the world, ſhunned by all virtuous women, and pointed at even by the bad! "Beſides, Sir, ſays ſhe, yours and my lady's honour are alſo concerned. The world, who knows the virtuous character your lordſhip's family bears, would for ever cenſure you on this account, ſhould they be acquainted with the tranſaction. Forgive me then, my lord, and let my crime be buried in oblivion."

His lordſhip would not conſent to pardon her himſelf, but referred her to his lady, to whom he the next day related the whole ſtory, conjuring her ladyſhip to diſmiſs her from her ſervice. Lady G——, who was too ſenſible of the great utility ſhe had been to her already, and how much ſhe might be of in future, undertook to intercede with Lord G——— in her maid's favour; and at laſt, with the greateſt difficulty, prevailed on him to leave it entirely to her ladyſhip, to act as ſhe pleaſed. She therefore chid Harriot for her lewdneſs, and agreed to retain her in her ſervice, on her ſolemn promiſe of never offending in the like manner again.

Virtue is the mother of all human pleaſures, and in rendering them juſt, makes them alſo pure and permanent; in moderating them, it preſerves without ſatiety, their appetite. In interdicting thoſe which ſhe herſelf refuſes, ſhe ſharpens our deſire to thoſe ſhe allows; and, like a kind and liberal mother, abundantly allows all that nature requires, even to exuberancy. If virtue meets with an indocile diſpoſition, ſhe paſſes that diſciple by, ſhe takes another, not ſo fickle and unſteady as the other, which ſhe forms wholly her own. Virtue can be rich, potent and wiſe; ſhe loves life, beauty, glory and health. But her peculiar office is, to know regularly how to make uſe of all theſe good things, and how to part with them without concern. A prerogative much more noble than troubleſome, and without which the whole courſe of life is unnatural, turbulent, and deformed; and there it is indeed, that men may juſtly repreſent thoſe monſters upon rocks and precipices. If the pupil happens to be of ſo croſs and contrary a diſpoſition, that he had rather hear a tale of a tub, than liſten to the dictates of virtue, he may very ſafely be given up. Virtue is that which inſtructs us how to live, and infancy has there its leſſons, as well as other ages: Why is it not then communicated to us betimes, and why are we not more early initiated in it?

Perſius very beautifully ſays, on this occaſion,

> Udum et molle lutum eſt, nunc properandus, et aeri
> Fingendus ſine fine rotâ.

Which, for the reader's ſatisfaction, I have thus tranſlated:

> The clay is moiſt and ſoft, now, now make haſte
> To form the veſſel, for the wheel turns faſt.

The felicity and beatitude that ſhines in virtue, gilds all her apartments and avenues, even to the firſt entry and utmoſt pale and limits. Now, of all the benefits that virtue confers upon mankind, the ſweet contemplation of a well-ſpent life is one of the greateſt, as it is the only means that accommodates human life with a ſoft and eaſy tranquillity, and gives us a pure and pleaſant taſte of living, without which, all other pleaſure would be extinct; which is the reaſon why all the rules, by which we are to live, center and concur in this one article. And though they all, in like manner, with one conſent, endeavour to teach us alſo to deſpiſe grief, poverty, and the other accidents to which human life, by its own nature and conſtitution is ſubjected,

jected, it is not, nevertheleſs, with the ſame importunity, as by reaſon, the already mentioned accidents are not of ſo great importance, many men paſſing over their whole lives, without ever knowing what poverty is, and ſome without ſorrow or ſickneſs.

Virtue implies ſomething more than merely for a perſon to ſuffer himſelf, by a happy diſpoſition, to be gently and quietly drawn to the rule of reaſon. He who, by a natural ſweetneſs and facility, ſhould deſpiſe injuries received, would do a very great and a very laudable action; but he who pined and nettled to the quick, by an offence, ſhould fortify himſelf with the arms of reaſon, againſt the furious appetite of revenge; and, after a great conflict, being maſter of his own paſſions, would doubtleſs do a great deal more. The firſt would do well, and the latter virtuouſly: one action might be called bounty, and the other virtue; for the very name of virtue pre-ſuppoſes difficulty and contention. For this reaſon we call Almighty God, good, mighty, liberal, juſt, &c. but we do not give him the attribute of virtuous, becauſe all his operations are natural, and without endeavour. No one certainly doubts, but that it is not leſs noble to endeavour, by a high and divine reſolution, to hinder the birth of temptations, and to be ſo formed to virtue, that the very ſeeds of vice be rooted out, than to hinder their progreſs; and having ſuffered themſelves to be ſurprized with the firſt motions of paſſions, to arm themſelves, and to ſtand firm to oppoſe their progreſs, and overcome them: And that this ſecond effect is not alſo much more generous than to be ſimply endowed with a frail and affable nature, of itſelf diſaffected to debauchery and vice, no one, I think, can deny; for this laſt ſort of virtue ſeems to render a perſon innocent, but not virtuous, free from doing ill, but not apt enough to do well; conſidering alſo, that this condition is ſo nearly allied to imperfection and cowardice, that the method, whereby they may be diſtinguiſhed becomes very difficult. The very names of good-nature and innocence, are for this reaſon, in ſome ſort, become objects of contempt.

Every one knows that ſeveral virtues, ſuch as chaſtity, ſobriety and temperance, may take their riſe from perſonal defects. Conſtancy in danger, if it muſt be ſo called, the contempt of death, and patience in misfortunes, may be often found in men, for want of well judging of ſuch accidents, and not apprehending them for ſuch as they are. Want of apprehenſion and inability do ſometimes counterfeit virtuous effects; and it happens not ſeldom, that men are commended for what really merits blame.

For the reaſons already given, when we judge of any particular action, we are to conſider ſeveral circumſtances, and the perſon himſelf by whom it is performed, before we give it a name.

It often happens, that we falſely call that prudence, which is merely the effect of fortune; and eſteem that courage and patience, which is wholly to be aſcribed to judgment and opinion; and thus we attribute one title for another, ſometimes to the advantage, and ſometimes otherwiſe of the perſon in queſtion. As to the reſt, men are generally ſo far from being arrived at the firſt and moſt perfect degree of excellence, where virtue is become habitual, that even of the ſecond, they make no very great trial. They are not over ſollicitous to curb the deſires by which they are importuned, and their virtue is a virtue, or rather an innocence caſual and accidental. If they had been formed of a more irregular diſpoſition, they would not have experienced any great ſtability in their ſouls, to reſiſt their paſſions, though even ſo little vehement. Theſe men conſequently owe themſelves no great thanks, from being free from ſeveral vices.

Horace, in his firſt book of ſatyrs, ſatire vi. ſays very well on this ſubject, that,

> Si vitiis mediocribus, et mea paucis
> Mendoſa eſt natura, aliqui recta velut ſi
> Egregio inſperſos reprehendas corpore nævos.

Which lines the learned Monſieur de Montaigne thus explains:

> If of ſmall crimes, and few, my nature be
> To be accuſed, and from the great ones free,
> Thoſe venial ſpots will no more ſpot my ſoul,
> Than a fair body's blemiſh'd with a mole.

They owe it rather to fortune than reaſon. This goddeſs cauſes, for example, a man to be deſcended of a race famous for integrity, and of a very good father: it is difficult to ſay, whether or no, part of his humours were infuſed into the ſon, or whether domeſtic examples, and the good education he received in his infancy, inſenſibly aſſiſted him in the work, or if he was otherwiſe born ſo. The abovecited Latin author further ſays, on this topic,

> Seu Libia, ſeu me Scorpius aſpicit
> Formido læſus, pars violentior
> Natalis horæ, ſeu tyrannus
> Heſperiæ Capricornus undæ.

But ſo it is, they have naturally an horror for moſt vices. The anſwer of Antiſthenes to one who aſked him, which way a man could beſt employ his time, to unlearn evil, ſeems to point at this: Many men abhor vice with a deteſtation ſo natural, and ſo much their own, that the ſame inſtinct and impreſſion which they imbibed in their earlieſt years, are ſo ſtrong, that no temptation whatever has force enough to make them alter it. They are more curbed by their manners than by their opinion, and their concupiſcence is leſs debauched than their reaſon. Ariſtippus had opinions ſo bold in favour of pleaſure and riches, as made all the philoſophers murmur at him; but as to his manners, Dionyſius the tyrant having preſented three beautiful women before him, in order to take his choice, he made anſwer, that he would chooſe them all, and that Paris had done ill in preferring one before the other two. Having taken them home to his houſe, he ſent them back untouched. His ſervant once, on a journey, finding the weight of money which he carried with him too heavy, Ariſtippus commanded him to throw away that which he could not carry. And Epicurus, whoſe doctrines were ſo irregular and effeminate, was in his life very laborious and devout: he wrote to a friend of his, that he lived only on biſcuit and water, intreating him to ſend him a little cheeſe to lay by him, againſt he had a mind to make a feaſt. Is it therefore true, that, to be perfectly good, we muſt be ſo by an occult, natural and univerſal propriety, without law, reaſon or example? Thoſe who are addicted to ſenſuality, willingly make uſe of this argument, (to ſhew that it is altogether vicious and unreaſonable) that when it is at the higheſt, it ſubjects us to that degree, that a man's reaſon can have no acceſs; and, to corroborate their aſſertion, they ſet before us the example of our own experience in the act of love, wherein they conceive, that the pleaſure does ſo tranſport us, that our reaſon cannot perform its office whilſt we are ſo benumbed and ecſtaſied in delight. I am ſenſible, it may be otherwiſe, and that a man may ſometimes, if he will, gain this point over himſelf, to ſway his ſoul, even in the critical moment to think of ſomething elſe. But then he muſt leiſurely incline and ply it to that bent. A man may triumph over the utmoſt effort of this pleaſure; neither is Venus ſo imperious a goddeſs as many, eſpecially the more reformed, declare her to be.

But, to leave theſe reflections, and proceed in our hiſtory, without any more digreſſions:

One day, as lady G—— and her confidant Harriot were diſcourſing in the garden on the delightful ſubject of love, which was ever the moſt pleaſing theme to her ladyſhip, ſhe uttered the following words, in the greateſt agitation of mind:

"Citherea's ſon is a god invincible; he renders us intrepid in danger! perſuaſion, religion, honour, or devoir! If we tremble, it is with the ſweet fear of not ſucceeding! Do we attend? it is to his enchanting rhetoric and powerful lays! Have we devotion? it is to his altars, where we offer up unfeigned and fervent ſacrifice! Our glory and duty conſiſts in an exact fidelity to his tranſporting dictates! His laws we obey, and love! we value nothing in compariſon with his precepts! and if the world's opinion, reputation, and the character of virtue cannot be maintained, without firſt apoſtatizing from him, why, farewel thoſe airy phantoms, that could never yet maintain their ſway, where Venus was in place! They offer but ſhadows, in comparison of the ſolid delights the queen of pleaſure brings along with her!

“ But how, Madam, anſwered Harriot, if his r—— h—— ſhould contemn you for your forwardneſs?”—“ Ideot girl! replied lady G———r, as if ſuch a ſpirit, ſuch a form, ſuch a face, and ſuch a love could be refuſed, when not clogged with the everlaſting chain of matrimony? But admitting it might happen, as certainly ’tis impoſſible, then it were time enough to repent, when we find no encouragement to the bewitching ſin. Oh! for ſome dear eaſy method, ſome ſoft contrivance to lay me in the p———’s arms, free from hardſhip, or an open diſtreſs to the modeſty of my ſex, where all that is awful about me might be diſmiſſed; nor place, attendance, nor my very ſelf, the ſame! That I could be metamorphoſed into the thing moſt pleaſing to C——'s fancy! They ſay, that audacious rival, Ariadne, aſſumed the dreſs of innocence, to ſteal his from him! that of an aukward country girl. The prince's baſhfulneſs gave way to his curioſity; he that trembled to attack a court lady, was furious as a lion at the ſight of a rural Phillis. He who would not venture to ſigh before one of us, kiſſed and tumbled the feigned ruſtic without remorſe, while ſhe pretended to carry him fruit to ſell to his bed-ſide Ah! how deſtructive has modeſty been to me!— How have I ſuffered that creature to ſteal his firſt embraces from my longing arms! to loſe, as I have done, the pleaſure of giving him his firſt impreſſion, the firſt tranſporting touch of joy, which ſtings the very imagination — I might indeed have imagined, that ſo much beauty, as he is maſter of, could not long be left to itſelf, the bough now ripened, and weighed down with glorious fruit, if to-day it forbear to fall, would to-morrow find hands ready enough to pull it. Oh! Harriot, if indeed thou haſt my peace of mind at heart, contrive, adviſe, do ſomething for thy miſtreſs's happineſs! But thou art not my friend! All I aſk, when I ſhall be abſent, tell my Lord I am aſleep — indiſpoſed — reading — fond of the laſt new play, and beg to be excuſed — will ſee him by and by — or any excuſe you may find moſt ſeaſonable. In the mean time, you ſhall tranſcribe a letter, which I think fit to ſend the P——: your hand is not known. The billet was thus:

"To the inſpirer of my ſoul, but ſweet diſturber of it;

Oh! divine C———, 'till I was inſpired by your lovely eyes, I did not imagine my life worth my concern. I meant to die undiſtinguiſhed, and to ſleep amidſt the lumber of the world. But your heavenly beauties have warmed me with nobler ſentiments; for your ſweet ſake, I would be immortal: I would excel in every thing, as I do in paſſion for my lovely charmer. But, for love's ſake, moſt adorable! preſerve

ſerve me at leaſt in your heart. There let me live! nor am I unworthy of ſuch a reſidence, who adore you ſo perfectly, ſo reſpectfully, ſo ardently, and will do to my laſt breath. I know not how ſoon I may, in abſence or death, loſe the joy of gazing on you, and my hand be rendered incapable of this ſweet employment. Receive therefore this aſſurance from my ſoul, that I will live and die, filled with adoration for you. That ſince the firſt moment I beheld you, my heart has panted for nothing elſe; my eyes and arms have been inſenſible of all other pleaſure, and, in abſence from you, acquainted with no joy. I have mourned inceſſantly, while buſineſs or friends have engaged you too often. Oh! my deareſt C———, how does the deprivation of your converſation wound my ſoul! If you were ever to blame, ſure it is in afflicting me ſo deeply. Oh! if you have a heart, why does it not beat with G——r's anguiſh? Why is it ſilent, when mine is torn to death with love and ſorrow? Oh! inſenſible C——, will it be to your glory, that you have pierced to death the moſt faithful of all women? How will you anſwer it to heaven, that has made you ſo lovely, that you have uſed that beauty to make me wretched? Oh! how ſweetly might it have bleſſed me! How might it have ſoftened all the misfortunes of life, by ſhining on me often, and bleſſing me in abſence by repeated tender letters? Are you not afraid, Oh too aſſured charmer! that a day may come, when the neglected

G——— may return this coldneſs, and tranſplant herſelf to ſome kinder boſom? Let me hear from you ſoon, till when, thou monarch of all my ſoft deſires, end of all my wiſhes, inſpirer of my heart, adoration of my ſoul, elevator of my thoughts, charmer of my boſom, life of my ſoul, and heaven of my repoſe, I here moſt fondly, moſt paſſionately, and moſt reſpectfully ſubſcribe myſelf,

Your devoted, adoring,

G———."

Harriot took the letter ſealed, and immediately flew to C———, to whom ſhe delivered it. He kiſſed it a thouſand and a thouſand times, and preſented the meſſenger with ten guineas, as a reward for her aſſiduity. He then took pen, ink and paper, and ſat down, and wrote the following ſhort anſwer:

"My Angel!

"Excuſe me, if in the extravagance of my joy, I thank you again and again for the favour of your laſt. Oh! my ———! a man muſt think as I think, love as I love, and feel as exquiſitely as I feel, ere he can be ſufficiently grateful for obligations, which, though they will be always remembered, can never be repaid, by

Your ladyſhip's moſt obedient,

And ſincerely devoted,

C———."

The day after the receipt of C——'s laſt letter, an adventure befel her ladyſhip, which gave her much pain, and was as follows: Some friends of her ladyſhip, whoſe names we have on purpoſe omitted, invited her to a private ball, made at the expence of Captain ——, who was a particular friend of the d—— of C——. Vanity led her thither, with another lady ſhe was very fond of. She found every thing there grand beyond her imagination, and the company were all very agreeable. She was preſented to them as a perſon well verſed in the art of dancing. As ſhe looked round upon the company, her heart ſeemed to fix itſelf on one gentleman, preferable to the reſt. He was tall and genteel, or at leaſt ſhe thought him ſo; and his countenance ſeemed to aſſure her, he thought as kindly of her. After he had very reſpectfully preſented her ladyſhip with wine and ſweetmeats, before any other perſon, he intreated her to indulge him with the favour of dancing with him. She ſecretly rejoiced at his choice, and preſented him her hand, with ſome pain and ſome pleaſure. They entertained each other without much regard to the reſt of the company. She perceived, or at leaſt hoped ſhe perceived, in him, a peculiar civility towards her; for ſhe found herſelf particularly moved towards him. Every thing he ſaid appeared engaging, and ſhe began to be apprehenſive the night would end too ſoon. How little do we conſider, what the approaching hours deſign us! Nothing could be more tenderly reſpectful than this gentleman.

The gentleman who had conducted her ladyſhip to the ball, was ſent for ſooner than the reſt of the company were willing to go; for the muſic and and entertainment were both very elegant. Her friend left her in haſte, but whiſpered her, that a ſervant and light ſhould remain at his back window; and he left a lady of his acquaintance to ſee her ſafe home. She was too well pleaſed to ſuſpect this, and therefore danced on as ſerenely as if her guardian angel had led her along: At laſt, however, the company prepared to be gone; ſhe looked round, but her female friend, who was to have conducted her, was ſlipped away with the hours. She grew a little concerned at this; but the laſt perſon with whom her ladyſhip had danced, offered his ſervice very gravely. It was late, lady G—— alone, and a ſtranger to the reſt of the company. She ſaw it was the cuſtom of the place to wait on the ladies home, and therefore gave her hand to her partner, who led her into a hackney coach that waited, and which, he told her, her friend had left on purpoſe for her. She knew not why, but her heart began to tremble, as if ſome danger was approaching: ſhe ſighed to herſelf, and now wiſhed to be ſafe at home, though the captain had behaved as well as ſhe could wiſh. The coach drove to the back door, as directed; but how great was her ſurprize! the coachman called, and thundered at the door enough to raiſe the dead, but neither any ſervant or light appeared. They waited above an hour to no purpoſe. It was extremely dark, late, cold, and rainy. Her ladyſhip very well knew it was impoſſible to get entrance into her own houſe, for there ſhe had left word ſhe ſhould not be at home all night. The gentleman ſeemed as much concerned as her ladyſhip, and acted his part extremely well. He ſpread his cloak over her, and they walked and ſtood at the adamantine door till ſhe was periſhing with cold. At laſt he implored her to mount the coach, to defend them from the weather. The wind blew, the ſpouts poured, the coachman grumbled, the horſes groaned, and her ladyſhip ſighed. Never were more deplorable objects. She propoſed ſitting in the coach, 'till the windows of the houſe were opened; but the coachman, whom lady G——r afterwards found to be an actor in this tragic farce, would not permit it on any terms. Her ladyſhip's ſoul was truly perplexed, and ſick with vexation, when this grave perſon ſurprized her with a confeſſion. He fell on his knees in the coach, and implored her pardon for what he was going to own. 'Tis I, ſaid he, Madam, am chiefly guilty of all this trouble, which your innocence miſtakes for chance. It is love and I have contrived all this. Her ladyſhip heard him with grief and ſurprize; nor did ſhe yet think it poſſible there could be ſuch art. "See, ſays he, divine creature, the force of your power over me. I confeſs myſelf a villain; I ſacrifice all to your diſpleaſure, and will hate myſelf for ever for having thus afflicted you. The ball, the deſign, the coach were mine, and all in order to perplex you thus. But I already repent; puniſh me as you pleaſe. But oh! have pity on your lovely ſelf, dearer to me than my ſoul! Leave me to my diſappointment to ſtab myſelf. But where will you wander, to be inſulted this bitter night? Oh! be tender of yourſelf, and truſt me once more, after this penitence. I have long adored you, and love laid this ſcheme for me; but it coſts you too dearly. Receive my ſincere penitence, and let my future reſpect convince you, I love you above myſelf. My lodgings are near; all things are ſafe and ſilent there; not a mortal can ſee you; my life ſhall defend you; nor any but this heart, now beating for you, know of the bleſſing. And I moſt religiouſly ſwear to be commanded by you this night and ever.

Without allowing her ladyſhip leave to think or ſpeak, he ordered the coachman to drive to Pall-mall. The ſadneſs of lady G——r's ſoul made it a hearſe to her; ſhe could not talk for grief. They ſoon arrived at the door, where they ſaw a light, which inſtantly retired, and the door was opened. The captain took her in his arms, and carried her in. They went up ſtairs, where all things were very gay and fine; lights, and a table ſpread with every thing polite. By the order of all this, and by every thing ſhe ſaw, capt. ——'s confeſſion was true, that ſhe was betrayed, and deſigned his victim. But her ladyſhip's ſoul (for that time) took other reſolutions far more worthy of itſelf. Never was more melancholy company than ſhe, nor ever were ſo many ſoft things thrown away on a heart.

After they had ſat, almoſt ſilent, at leaſt on her ladyſhip's part, a conſiderable time, he began to implore her, for her own ſake, to take ſome reſt. She told him, ſhe would try to repoſe herſelf a little in the great chair, if he would pleaſe to leave her. Lady G—r plainly perceived this was not the reſt he meant, and kneeling down by her, he tenderly intreated her to go to his bed, which ſhould be ſacred to her, and preſented her the key of his chamber to lock herſelf in, while he only begged leave to guard her in the outward room.

Her ladyſhip received the key, and became a little eaſy, to think ſhe ſhould be once alone and ſafe. She wiſhed him a good night, and withdrew into the bed-chamber, which ſhe locked, and went into bed, thinking herſelf ſecure. Her ladyſhip's poor ſpirits were almoſt ſunk to death, being oppreſſed with anxiety and fatigue. However, ſhe at length fell aſleep, which laſted not long: She ſtarted, and found herſelf incloſed in the arms of Captain ———. How was ſhe amazed and terrified! ſhe burſt into tears of anger and ſorrow; ſhe implored his pity, and he hers; he wept, he intreated, but in vain. They lay after this manner ſome time; but he held her ſo faſt, as to render it impoſſible to break from his hold. Never were ſadder hours paſt on both ſides; never were ſuch different complaints. Her ladyſhip knew not how to get from this precipice, otherwiſe than by a little art, the firſt ſhe had ever uſed. She promiſed him, that if he would ſafely releaſe her, ſhe would conſider the merit of that, and be ſome time grateful. She conjured him to truſt to her pity and generoſity, which at laſt he did. She then aroſe, and huddled on her things, ſtill trembling for fear.

After kiſſing her hand, and bathing it with his tears, he let her out of his chamber, to which ſhe found he had another key. He ſoftly opened the ſtreet-door, and ſhe hurried out, and walked faintly along to her own houſe, where a ſervant who was juſt up let her in; and ſhe pretended that ſhe had been up dancing all night.

Pale, cold and ſickly, ſhe went to bed, where ſhe ſlept a few hours tolerably well: when ſhe aroſe, ſhe was told, a gentleman had waited below ſome time for her awaking, who ſaid he had danced with her over night, and came to enquire after her health. He was ſhewn up ſtairs into the dining-room; but who can deſcribe the confuſion lady G—— received him with, or the ſad reflections that crouded on her mind. Not innocence itſelf could defend her from ſhame, when ſhe reflected how lately ſhe had broke from his arms; nor was Captain —— leſs concerned; for it really was true, that he had conceived a ſtrong paſſion for her, which was much increaſed by the diſappointment he had lately received.

He ſpoke little, but even that after ſo tender a manner, that her fears began to retire, and ſmiles take place. Her ladyſhip began to comfort him, and ſeemed to value his generoſity at a high rate. She again promiſed him to think of it, and ever to eſteem him.

When the danger was over, ſhe fancied he appeared more agreeable to her; and ſtill, as ſhe talked to him, her liking returned. His converſation was very ſweet and pleaſing to her. For ſome months he viſited her continually, and ſhe found ſomething of a tenderneſs for him, though no violent paſſion, which he uſed to deplore, and think himſelf very unhappy.

During this time, he offered her very fine diamonds, and preſents of all kinds, but ſhe received none; neither did ſhe find herſelf fond of, or dazzled with theſe trifles. He was ever ſighing before her, till at length grown weary of loſing his hopes and hours, he reſolved to try his laſt art.

In order to compaſs his end, he offered, in as reſpectful a manner as ſuch a propoſal could bear, his fortune, or any part her ladyſhip ſhould chooſe, for a ſettlement, and aſſured her, that every thing ſhould be conducted in ſuch a manner, as ſhould ſet her above reproach; neither ſhould her character ſuffer, in the manner he meant to contrive it; and, ſhould he be happy enough to have any children by her, they ſhould be his only heirs; and that he would enter into the firmeſt obligations not to marry. He confeſſed it was more agreeable to him, becauſe, he ſaid, love lived longer when unconfined; and that he would be her's eternally, and only her's.

While he was expoſtulating in this manner, her ladyſhip's ſoul recoiled with diſdain; but ſhe concealed her anger, and told him ſhe would conſider of what he had ſaid.

They parted then for ever; and her ladyſhip retired to Fulham, where ſhe wrote him word, ſhe was gone to her country ſeat at ——, and would never ſee him more. She ſaw him afterwards in the Park, but took care to avoid him. She gave the d—— of C—— a full account of this adventure, who was with great difficulty prevailed on not to kill him, but he never forgave him.

Lady G——, ſoon after this, received a note from his r—— h——, that it was his intention to viſit her that afternoon, at the milliner's in —— ſtreet. She failed not to be punctual to the appointment; and as the manner of her receiving him this time was ſomewhat different from that which ſhe was accuſtomed to, a deſcription thereof will, perhaps, not be diſagreeable to the reader.——

She was ſeated on a bed, over which hung a beautiful painting of Venus, aſcending from the ſea in a carr of mother of pearl: her trembling beauty ſeemed animated with ſo divine a bluſh, ſo lovely a confuſion, that could not fail of communicating part thereof to the beholder. The whole length was an entire painting by the beſt hand: On one ſide of the chamber was a Læda in the embraces of Jupiter, under the milk-white down of a beautiful ſwan; and on the other, a moſt exquiſite repreſentation of the loves of Venus and Adonis. Theſe were objects capable of warming the moſt inſenſible, and as if particularly deſigned in favour of her, who appeared more than repreſentation; the ſhining Lady G——— herſelf, who lay beneath this heavenly ſcene of love, all warm, amiable and young. Her large black ſparkling eyes, full of that fluctuation of mind and deſire, which ſhe communicated to others; her hair of the ſame jetty ſhine, was covered with lockers of rubies, as if to ſuppreſs the ſwelling curls from falling to obſcure her forehead. A veil of ſhining yellow covered her head; a looſe mantle of gold ſtuff, lined with ſcarlet, and adorned with precious ſtones, was ſo artificially diſpoſed on her, as (notwithſtanding the careleſſneſs of its air) not to cover too much of her beauty, either the glowing cheek, or well-turned neck, or ſwelling breaſts; and which, while it ſeemed a defence to her tender ſoul, did neither encumber or conceal the tender, delicate ſhape, habited in a cloſe robe of plain white ſattin, genteelly made, and admirably becoming.

She was leaning with her head on one hand, while the other ſeemed employed in holding a paper: yet a ſwimming languiſhment, and an enchanting dying air, plainly ſhewed, that the lady found not all things within herſelf; that that mine of beauty ſhe poſſeſſed, was not ſufficient to her own happineſs: In a word, ſhe appeared not ſullen, nor diſcontented, but uneaſy, as if deſiring that which moves the tendereſt deſires; nor bold, nor angry, nor vexatious, but full of warming, ſoft, tumultuous inclinations.

Could I trace her every charm, my pen would out-do the pencil; for as yet there had never been any painter, (though many had attempted) that could come up to nature, in the divine G——r's form: For, to a marvellous regularity and harmony of features, there was added an air ſo bewitching and inexpreſſible, that no art could ever catch; many faint repreſentations had been made, many painful eſſays; but this ineſtimable charmer had the pleaſure and grief to ſee, that nothing could equal her while ſhe was living, nor preſerve the true repreſentations of her beauty, when her beauty, together with herſelf, ſhould be no longer living.

"Oh, heavens!" cry'd out the enamoured C——d, as ſoon as he had caſt his eyes on her ladyſhip, "and is it to this place you have brought me to behold perfection? After having ſeen the moſt celebrated beauties the world affords, I am conſtrained to acknowledge, I have never ſeen any but Lady G——; that no other objects, compared, are worthy of ſight, or to be termed beautiful; and you muſt permit me to treat you as a mortal."

"If in me, replied Lady G——, your h—— is pleaſed to ſay you find what beauty is, without impeaching your own wonted ſincerity, I will receive, and be proud of the praiſes that come from ſo great a man; a man, in whoſe company I am ſupremely bleſſed, and whom the univerſal world admires."

Having ſpent ſome time in gazing on her beauty, he intreated her to riſe, and ſuffer him to lead her to a table, which was covered with all the dainties the ſeaſon afforded. His r—— h—— himſelf took a pleaſure in ſerving her, was overjoyed at finding that his aſſiduity was pleaſing to her.

After the repaſt was over, he intreated her to ſing him a ſong on the much admired theme of love, which ſhe inſtantly complied with; and there being a ſpinnet in the chamber, ſhe accomcompanied the ſound of that inſtrument with her enchanting voice, and performed the following air; in which his r—— h—— alſo bore a part with her.

1.

Fly from theſe charming graces, fly,
Or thou'rt undone, or thou'rt undone, as well
as I.

2.

The god of love is ſure your friend,
Who taught you all his arts,
And when the conqueſt he deſign'd,
He furniſh'd you with darts.

3.

His quiver, and his gilded bow
To your aſſiſtance brings,
And having given the fatal blow;
Lends you his fleeting wings.
Fly from, &c.

Her ladyſhip's voice, and pretty manner, drew from the d—— of G—— the moſt extravagant ſigns of applauſe and thanks; which having put her into an agreeable confuſion, took up ſome time before ſhe could recover herſelf. It now growing late, and lady G——— appearing to be fatigued, his h———— retired into an adjacent chamber, while a ſervant belonging to the houſe conducted her ladyſhip to a ſumptuous bed-chamber, where having undreſſed her, the maid retired, leaving her ladyſhip, not to her repoſe, but to receive the ſoft embraces of her lover, who being acquainted, that the dear object of his moſt tender affections was in bed, haſtened to the apartment where ſhe lay, love adding wings to his feet, where we ſhall leave the two lovers, who, as may be very well expected, paſſed the night in the moſt agreeable manner. It was pretty late the next morning, when they were awakened by the truſty valet of the d—— of C———, who brought him a meſſage, intimating, that his attendance at court was immediately required.

His r—— h——— immediately aroſe, and taking a tender leave of his lovely charmer, who was ſtill in bed, he went directly home in a hackney chair, the better to diſguiſe his quality. He dreſſed, and went to court, having previouſly ordered his valet to return to the milliner's, to ſee if her ladyſhip wanted any thing, and to give her freſh aſſurances of his eternal unalterable

able regard for her. The faithful valet went as he was ordered, but found that Lord G—— had been with her, and that they were gone home together; where we ſhall ſee what reception ſhe met with from her injured huſband.

Lord G——r, who the evening before had returned home ſooner than ordinary, and having waited the arrival of her ladyſhip, without ſucceſs, 'till four in the morning, had retired to bed, his mind being filled with unſpeakable anguiſh.

He had (as has been already obſerved in the courſe of theſe memoirs) frequent occaſions of ſuſpecting her conjugal fidelity, but never more than at this time; her ladyſhip having hitherto kept within ſome limits of decorum, and had always taken care at leaſt to preſerve appearances 'till this time.

As ſoon as he beheld her, he interrogated her, where ſhe had been all night? informing her, that her conduct was highly diſpleaſing to him; and that a repetition of ſuch behaviour would entirely wean his affection from her. From his lordſhip's ſtern looks, and reſolute tone of voice, ſhe ſoon comprehended, that a ſubmiſſive behaviour, and an apparent ſorrow for the wrong ſteps ſhe had taken, was the beſt way of proceeding in her preſent dilemma. She therefore conjured his lordſhip to forgive her, promiſing to demean herſelf in all things, for the future, like an obedient wife; and artfully concealing the place where ſhe had been, intreated him not to acquaint her mother with her tranſgreſſion. The fond huſband, overjoyed at theſe ſigns of penitence in his offending wife, ſealed her pardon with a kiſs, while the fair hypocrite internally ſmiled at his eaſy nature.

His r—— h—— being ſoon after this appointed to the command of the Venus frigate, lying at Portſmouth, and ſtationed for a cruize in the Mediterranean, the neceſſary preparations for his embarkation being got ready, he ſet out for that place, having previouſly taken a moſt tender leave of her ladyſhip, and promiſing to write to her every opportunity.

Whatever hindered his r— h——'s fulfilling his promiſe of a frequent correſpondence, I will not take upon me to determine; but, from a letter wrote by Lady G—— to him, and which I have ſubjoined here, we find that three weeks (in love's account three hundred ages) had elapſed, without her having received any letter from him. But, however, before I give the reader that letter, I ſhall preſent him with another wrote by the d— of C———, the day immediately on his arrival at Portſmouth, which was conceived in the following words:

"My Dear Little Angel,

"I wrote my laſt letter to you yeſterday at eleven o'clock, juſt when we failed. I dined at two o'clock, and as for the afternoon, I had ſome muſic. I have my own ſervant on board that plays, and a couple of hands from London, for ſix weeks. I am out.—We were a good many at dinner; I had about nine perſons yeſterday, and ſhall have more when the reſt of my ſquadron joins me. They ſtay'd 'till near ſeven; I got to ſupper about nine o'clock, but could not eat, and ſo got to bed about ten. I then prayed for you, my deareſt love, kiſſed your deareſt little hair, and lay down and dreamt of you, had you on the dear little couch, ten thouſand times in my arms kiſſing you, and telling you how much I loved and adored you, and you ſeemed pleaſed: But alas! when I awoke, I found it all deluſion; nobody by me, but myſelf at ſea. I roſe by time, at half paſt five, and went upon deck. There I found my friend Billy, and walked with him for about an hour, till Barrington came to me. We then breakfaſted about eight o'clock, and by nine I began, and examined the ſhip's company under my command till twelve. It is now one, and when I finiſh this letter to you, my dear love, I ſhall dreſs and go to dinner at two o'clock. It is a rule on board to dine at two, breakfaſt at eight, and ſup at nine.——Always, if nothing hinders me, I ſhall be a-bed by ten, or ſoon after, and up by half paſt five in the morning, in order to have, if there is any occaſion, orders ready for the fleet under my command, before I begin to exerciſe them. I am ſure the account of this day's duty can be no pleaſure to you, my love; yet it is exactly what I have done; and as I promiſed you always to let you know my motions, and my thoughts, I have now performed my promiſe this day to you, and always will, until the very laſt letter you ſhall have from me, which will be, when I, between five and ſix weeks, ſend the admiralty word that I am arrived at Spithead: then I ſhall only wait juſt for their anſwer, which will be with me in a few hours, to ſtrike my flag, and then I ſhall return to you that inſtant. Oh! my love! mad and happy beyond myſelf,

ſelf, to tell you how "I love and have thought of you, ever ſince I have been ſeparated from you. The wind being contrary to day about one, I put off dinner, in order to anchor ſhips for this night in Portland road, juſt off Weymouth, about two miles. I hope to ſail to-morrow about five in the morning. I hope you are well; I am ſure I need not tell you, I have had nothing in my thoughts but your deareſt ſelf, and long for the time to come back again to you. I will all the while take care of my ſelf, becauſe you deſire, my dear little friend, the angel of my heart. Pray do you take care of your dear ſelf, for the ſake of your faithful ſervant, who lives but to love you, to adore you, and to bleſs the moment, that he has made you generous though to own it to him.—I hope my dear, nay, I will dare to ſay, you will never have reaſon to repent it. The wind was not ſo contrary, but we could have ſailed on, but I told Barrington, that as it was not fair, I would anchor, eſpecially as I could ſend one of my frigates in, for that I had diſpatches of conſequence to ſend to London. Indeed my dear angel, I need not tell you, I know you read the reaſon too well, that made me do ſo; it was to write to you, for God knows, I have wrote to no one elſe, nor ſhall I to any other, but to the king—God bleſs you, moſt amiable and deareſt little creature living——— Aimons toujours mon adorable petit amour; Je vous adore pluſque la vie meſme. I have been reading for about an hour this morning in Prior, and find theſe few lines juſt now applicable to us."

"Now oft had Henry changed his ſly diſguiſe,
Unmarked by all, but beauteous Harriot's eyes,
Oft had found means alone to ſee the dame,
And at her feet to breathe his am'rous flame;
And oft the pangs of abſence to remove,
By letters, ſoft interpreters of love;
Till time and induſtry, (the mighty two
That bring our wiſhes nearer to our view),
Made him perceive that the inclining fair,
Received his vows with no reluctant ear;
That Venus had confirmed her equal reign,
And dealt to Harriot's heart a ſhare of Henry's
pain."

"Such is my amuſement, to read thoſe ſort of things, that put me in mind of our mutual feelings and ſituations now. God bleſs you, 'till I ſhall again have an opportunity of ſending to you; I ſhall write to you a letter a day. As often as you miſs hearing of me when I do, they ſhall all come on Friday, June 16.—God bleſs, I ſhan't forget you, God knows you have told me ſo before; I have your heart, and it lies warm in my breaſt; I hope mine feels as eaſy to you, thou joy of my life, adieu."

Directed to L—— G——

Three weeks, as I ſaid before elapſed from the receipt of the above letter, and l—— G—— had not been conſoled with a letter from —— ——. She was grieved, ſhe was enraged, ſhe began to ſuſpect his love, and after many hard ſtruggles between love and reſentment, under the weight of which two different paſſions, the faithful Harriet's riet's comfortable ſpeeches were no ſmall aſſiſtance, ſhe ſat down and wrote the following lines.

Sir,

"It is now three weeks ſince I have had a line from your hands, and ſhould be unable to judge whether you were, or not, in the land of the living, but from the public prints. I ſuppoſe Portſmouth and its environs have ſo many charms, that I ſhall not ſoon, have the honor of complimenting your truſty valet, with the leaſt mark of my attachment to his maſter. I had news to tell you, but muſt wait till the wind changes.

Your's,

As I ought to be,

—— G——."

This letter put his ——— into the greateſt agonies; he raved, ſtormed, and in ſhort, his ſoul was in ſo great a ferment, that the worſt conſequences might have been apprehended from the ſudden flow of paſſion which agitated his mind, had it not in a few hours ſubſided, when he took pen, ink, and paper, and wrote the following anſwer.

" Madam,

" Your laſt cruel letter found me on the point of taking poſt chaiſe for London, where I am no ſooner arrived, than I ſit down to aſſure you, that my ſentiments are wholly unchanged; that I am incapable to change, and that if you have not heard from me as frequently as uſual, it ought not to be attributed to any alteration in my ſentiments, but to a ſenſe of the importance of the commiſſion with which I was charged, which would not admit of my thinking a moment on any other ſubject. Excuſe this freedom, madam, in an Engliſhman and a ſubject. To-morrow if you pleaſe, at eleven o'clock, I will have the honor of throwing myſelf at your feet, in ——— ſtreet, and of this my intention, I will immediately apprize Mrs. ———, that ſhe may be prepared for our reception.

Your's,
more than his own,
C———."

Her l———p's heart leaped for joy on the peruſal of this letter, which had been no ſooner delivered into the hands of the ever faithful Harriet, than ſhe preſented it to her miſtreſs. L—— G——, now prepared to meet his ——, and having deceived her fond deluded huſband, with the pretence of going to ſee her mother, ſhe was at Mrs. ——'s preciſely at eleven, whither the d—— arrived a few minutes after. I will not pretend to give an impartial account of all the kind and tender things they ſaid to each other on their firſt meeting, after ſo long an abſenſe. Let it ſuffice, that after having enjoyed each others company a competent time, they parted, after having aſſured each of their tender regard and eſteem, and promiſed not to let ſlip any opportunity that might offer of ſeeing or ſending to each other.

A ſcene of adventures, more curious and intereſting than any of thoſe heretofore mentioned, now begin to open. The reader may aſſure himſelf, that he will find nothing but what is authentic, and I flatter myſelf, that that candour, which ſo much diſtinguiſh my countrymen, from all the reſt of the world, will kindly overlook any error, that may have eſcaped my notice.

We have already ſeen in the foregoing part of this hiſtory, how criminally intimate the lovers had been, for a long ſeries of time, before his ——— of ——— was appointed to the command of the V——s f—g—te, on board of which he hoiſted his flag as admiral, and commander in chief of the ſqua-

dron

dron, which was fitted out in the year 1769, on a cruize to the Mediterranean, which was to laſt ſix weeks. I thought I could not adopt a better method of making the reader acquainted with what paſſed relative to his amour with her l—y—p, during his abſence, than by inſerting thoſe very letters, which were ſent from one to the other. Neither let it be objected that ſome of thoſe letters have already appeared in the public prints; for there are many who ſcarce ever peruſe a news-paper, any farther than what concerns domeſtic intelligence: to theſe they cannot but be agreeable, and to ſuch as read thoſe daily publications entirely through, they will ſerve to illuſtrate the ſubject.

Sunday the 18th.

"My deareſt friend,

"I ſent a letter laſt night, but fear you could not receive it while on ſhore, but I hope it would not be long in getting to you. I hope you are perfectly well, and have had a good voyage ſo far."

"He appears rather in a better temper to day, ſo I'm in great hopes he did not get enough of the letter to make out much. He ſtaid out very late laſt night, which ſeems to have occaſioned a *weezing* to day. By the means of my ſiſters I think I can ſend and receive my letters very ſafe for the future. Carry is out of town for a few days, ſo in the mean time I ſend them by another ſiſter, who comes to ſee me every day, and ſhe thinks it ſome buſineſs I have with Reda about ſome millinery that I don't chuſe he ſhould know of, ſo if ſhe gets ever a letter for me, ſhe knows ſhe is not to take it out of her pocket till we are alone; ſo its all cleverly ſettled again at preſent. How miſerable it ſhould have been if we could not have contrived to hear from one another. I quite live only upon the thoughts of its not being a great while before I have the happineſs of a letter from you, for I'm very ſure you'll write as ſoon as you can, I know your tenderneſs for me well enough to be certain of that."

"He is coming up ſtairs, ſo I ſhall conclude till to-morrow. God bleſs you my dear friend."

Monday the 19th.

"I reſume my pen to tell you to day how ſincerely I eſteem you. He is ſtill rather more come about again to day. Yeſterday he ſhook hands with me, and this morning he came and kiſſed me, and ſaid he was going out of town to Walthamſtow to dine with his brother. Perhaps he is gone to aſk his advice, but I dont care, he may take what meaſures he pleaſes with me if you will but love me. Had a note from Mrs. Reda this evening, ſhe ſaid ſhe is certain he dares not ſay a word to her, but wiſhes he would above all things, for that ſhe knows very well how to anſwer him, for that ſhe knows enough of his intrigues for him, to be afraid of ſaying any thing to her, and ſhe is ſure he is not *aſſez hardi* to ſay a word to her upon the ſubject. Her note was in anſwer to one ſhe had received from me to prepare her in caſe he ſhould ſpeak to her, and I told her in caſe he aſked her any queſtions, to ſay ſhe knew nothing of where or who the letter came from.

"I hope I ſhall be in London when you come back. I dare ſay I ſhall fancy he had not a mind to part with me let him have ſeen what he would in the letter, for he aſked me yeſterday when I ſhould be able to go into Cheſhire, I told him I could not give the leaſt gueſs as it depends entirely upon how I was: and I think I've lay'd a good ſcheme, for I've already complained I've got a pain in my ſide, and I intend to ſay its much worſe at the end of the month, and that I cannot bear the motion of a carriage. It will I really believe be a very good plan; for if I ſaid I had a fever or any thing of that kind a phyſician would know by my pulſe I had not, and might diſcover me to him; and beſides this will be a more laſting complaint, ſo at the end of five or ſix weeks I'll grow very ill and ſend for Fordyce the apothecary, and make him ſend me a quantity of naſty draughts, which I'll throw out of the window. Only think how wicked I am, for in reality I'm already as ſtrong and as well as ever I was in my life. L—y H——n called upon me the other day to know how I did: I longed to ſee her, but dared not as he was at home. I intend to go to her as ſoon as I can get out. L—y B—n was with her. I've heard nothing of D——, I ſuppoſe he is afraid of writing or coming as he is in town, but I ſhall write to her ſoon. My month is out by the week the fifth of July, but by the month not till the ſeventh, ſo I'll take it at the longeſt, and not be well at the end of it, that we may not lay together; and he muſt be going to New Market the eight or nineth for the races which are the tenth, and he'll ſtay there ſome days, and when he comes home he ſhall find me worſe with the pain in my ſide, and your ſix weeks will be out the twenty-ſixth, and I hope you'll not be long after that. I'm quite in ſpirits with the thoughts that by ſome means or other we ſhall make out the time, that I ſhall be ſo happy as to ſee you when you return."

"My dear fond adieu till to-morrow when I ſhall add more. Continue to love me, pray."

"Tueſday evening the 20th.

"I'm going to teaze my dear little friend with more of my ſtupid letters; I've not ſeen Mr. Cropen ſince yeſterday morning, he did not come home from his brother's till I was aſleep laſt night, and went early this morning to ſit for his picture to Weſt, and juſt came home to dreſs and went out to dinner without coming up ſtairs, and left a gentleman in the houſe that he had made come up ten miles out of the country to dine with him, Mr. Knox his great friend, ſo he is below ſtairs dining by himſelf. I cannot think what the duce he is about.——I ſuppoſe by his not coming up to ſee me, Mr. Gro——r has cenſured our part of the letter and adviſed him to be angry, but I ſhall ſee if he comes home to tea and how he behaves——there is no news about to talk to you about of, ſo, God knows, my letter is ſtupid enough to tire you to death. I can only give you an account of our odd way of going on at home. When I go out, I will tell you every where I go every hour in the day."

"O my deareſt ſoul I've juſt received two the deareſt letters in the world from you. How can I, I cannot expreſs my feelings of gratitude and love for you, your dear heart is ſo ſafe with me, and feels every emotion mine does, with you—how happy your deareſt letters make me. I'm ſo much obliged to you for ſaying you will take care of your dear health becauſe I deſire you—do my deareſt friend I intreat you, and I'll do the ſame."——

"How ſweet thoſe verſes are you ſent me, they are heavenly ſweet, becauſe they were marked by you. I always liked Prior, but ſhall adore him becauſe you like him. I'm made quite happy to night by having freſh aſſurances of your love, you have mine entirely.

How happy will that day be to me that brings you back. I wonder where I ſhall ſee you firſt. I form a thouſand happy ideas to my ſelf. I ſhall be unable to ſpeak for joy. In the mean time let us write as often as poſſible. How kind it was of you to ſay you had letters of conſequence to write when it was only to poor me. Your dear heart "flurried too on reading the dear letters: it has both laught and cryed with joy—it lies warm in my breaſt—I cheriſh it and think of nothing elſe but to preſerve it ſafe there and happy.——My deareſt ſoul I ſend you ten thouſand kiſſes—I wiſh I could give them."

"God bleſs you, I will now conclude, for I'm ſure this letter is ſtupid enough to tire you to death, pray forgive it, I'm finiſhing it in the dark, I ſee no body to tell me any thing to make my letter entertaining, ſo can only tell you how ſincerely I do and ever ſhall love you, and I know you'll like that as well as any thing, for nothing makes me ſo happy as your telling me ſo, and we love too well not to love by ſympathy."

" *Amons tout jour tendrement mon adorable ammi mon tres chere ame.*"

" I'll write again every day, and ſend it to Reda at all opportunities. God bleſs you, *my deareſt dear life, I ſhall ever love* you."

This letter was incloſed in a cover, and delivered by her ladyſhip's ſiſter, the faithful meſſenger of the little God cupid. The ſuperſcription was as follows,

To his —— the D—— of C——.

End of Vol. I.

BRITISH MUSEUM
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